

On Top Of The News

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Thursday, August 5, 2010

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

MOSCOW SMOG

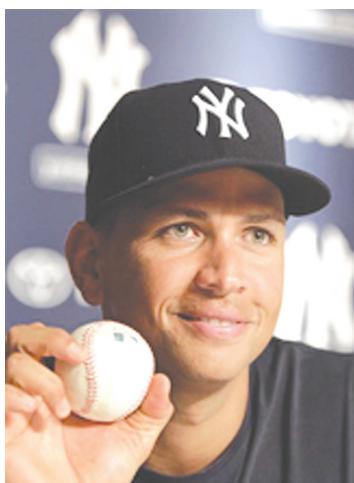


Setting sun is reflected in the Moskva River as its rays struggle through the the thickest blanket of smog yet over Moscow, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010. Moscow was engulfed Wednesday by the thickest blanket of smog yet this summer, an acrid, choking haze from wildfires that have wiped out Russian forests, villages and a military base.

Read more on Page A7

SPORTS NEWS

600 CLUB



New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez holds up the baseball he hit for his his 600th career home run ball during a post-game a news conference after the Yankees 5-1 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010 in New York.

Read more on Back Page



Price of a barrel of petroleum

US\$ 82.47

↓ 0.08



Nadia Chayka, second from left, and her fiance Luke Otterstad, second from right, both proponents of Proposition 8, talk with Ron Weaver, left, and Billy Bradford, right, both opponents of Proposition 8, outside of the Phillip Burton Federal Building in San Francisco, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

Judge overturns gay marriage ban

LISA LEFF

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge overturned California's gay-marriage ban Wednesday in a landmark case that could eventually force the U.S. Supreme Court to confront the question of whether same-sex couples have a constitutional right to wed.

The ruling by Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker touched off a celebration outside the courthouse. Gay couples waved rainbow and American flags and erupted with cheers in the city that has long been a magnet for gays.

Continued on Page 3



Crush of mud finally plugs well in the Gulf



From left, Carol Browner, assistant to the President for energy and climate change, NOAA chief Jane Lubchenco, and national incident commander of the BP oil spill Thad Allen, update reporters at the White House, in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

GREG BLUESTEIN

TAMARA LUSH

Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — In the end, it was a crush of mud that finally plugged the blown-out well in the Gulf of Mexico, three months after the offshore drilling rig explosion that unleashed a gusher of oil and a summer of misery along the Gulf Coast.

Continued on Page 5



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, is surrounded by bodyguards as he arrives to address a public gathering, in Hamedan about 204 miles southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010. A conservative website said handmade grenade exploded close to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's convoy in western Iran but the Iranian president was not hurt.

Associated Press

Read more on Page 9





President Barack Obama reacts as the audience sings "Happy Birthday" to him after he presented the 2010 Citizens Medals, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO—Alone on his 49th birthday, President Barack Obama fled the empty White House mansion and headed for a more intimate celebration with longtime friends in his Chicago hometown.

Obama has been living a bachelor's life for the past several days with first lady

Michelle Obama and daughter Sasha visiting Spain and daughter Malia spending the month away at an undisclosed camp.

Before leaving Washington on Wednesday afternoon with the family dog, Bo, Obama got a couple of presents he didn't have to unwrap and which the White House described as being the highlight of his day: telephone calls from the

Obama turns 49 with Mrs. Obama, children away

women in his life.

Mrs. Obama and Sasha phoned in their happy birthday wishes, followed by a lunchtime call from Malia.

"Needless to say ... both those calls were the highlights of his day," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters who traveled with Obama aboard Air Force One. Obama's Secret Service detail got him a present, though Gibbs would describe it only as "heartfelt." As the presidential motorcade pulled closer to his house in Hyde Park, neighbors lined the street to welcome him home with waves and signs, including "Happy 49th Birthday President Barack Obama" and "Happy Birthday Mr. President."

Obama's birthday — though a year short of the milestone 5-0 — also was viewed in

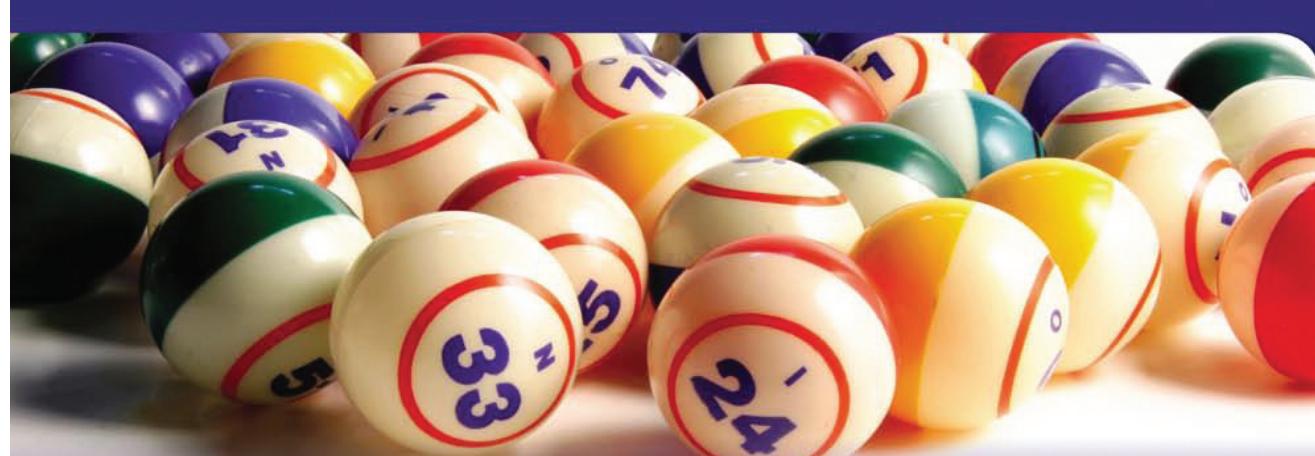
this election year as a prime fundraising opportunity for Democrats, who fear losing their hold on both houses of Congress come November. E-mails, house parties and other forms of outreach sought to capitalize on Obama's big day.

Mrs. Obama even joined the act, asking supporters to sign an e-mail birthday card being distributed by Organizing for America, Obama's political organization. More than 1.2 million people had signed it as of Wednesday morning.

The Republican Party marked the occasion with a new website offering 11 different e-cards people can send Obama, including ones mocking the ethics problems of Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel of New York and Maxine Waters of California, and noting key

Democratic election losses in Virginia, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Obama planned to help out with the money-raising on Thursday by headlining separate events in Chicago for the Democratic Party and Alexi Giannoulias, the Democrat eyeing the Senate seat Obama gave up to become president. The president spoke earlier Wednesday at an AFL-CIO meeting in Washington and joked about not getting a birthday cake from his "good friends" in the labor movement. A cake apparently had been planned, according to union president Richard Trumka, but he said the Secret Service had nixed the idea. Obama said he'd have a talk with the agents then joked, "They're probably eating it right now." □



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GAY MARRIAGE

Continued from Front Page

Shelly Bailes embraced her wife Ellen Pontac as Bailes held a sign reading, "Life Feels Different When You're Married."

In New York City, about 150 people gathered in front of a lower Manhattan courthouse. They carried signs saying "Our Love Wins" as organizers read portions of the ruling.

Walker made his decision in a lawsuit filed by two gay couples who claimed the voter-approved ban violated their civil rights.

The ruling "vindicates the rights of a minority of our citizens to be treated with decency and respect and equality in our system," said former U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson, who delivered the closing argument at trial for opponents of the ban. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also praised the ruling as an important step toward equality and freedom. Protect Marriage, the coalition of religious and conservative groups that sponsored the ban, said it would immediately appeal the ruling to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"In America, we should uphold and respect the right of people to make policy changes through the democratic process, especially changes that do nothing more than uphold the definition of marriage that has existed since the founding of this country and beyond," said Jim Campbell, a lawyer on the defense team.

Despite the favorable ruling for same-sex couples, gay marriage will not be allowed to resume immediately.

Judge Walker said he wants to decide whether his order should be suspended while the proponents of the ban pursue

their appeal. He ordered both sides to submit written arguments by Friday on the issue.

The appeal would go first to the 9th Circuit then to the U.S. Supreme Court if the high court justices agree to review it. California voters passed the ban as Proposition 8 in November 2008, five months after the state Supreme Court legalized gay marriage.

Supporters argued the ban was necessary to safeguard the traditional understanding of marriage and to encourage responsible childbearing.

Walker, however, found it violated the Constitution's due process and equal protection clauses while failing "to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license."

"Indeed, the evidence shows Proposition 8 does nothing more than enshrine in the California Constitution the notion that opposite-sex couples are superior to same-sex couples," the judge wrote in his 136-page ruling.

He also said proponents offered little evidence that they were motivated by anything other than animus toward gays — beginning with their campaign to pass the ban, which included claims of wanting to protect children from learning about same-sex marriage in school.

"Proposition 8 played on the fear that exposure to homosexuality would turn children into homosexuals

and that parents should dread having children who are not heterosexual," Walker wrote.

Walker heard 13 days of testimony and arguments since January during the first trial in federal court to examine if states can prohibit gays from getting married.

The plaintiffs presented 18 witnesses. Academic experts testified about topics ranging from the fitness of gay parents and religious views on homosexuality to the historical meaning of marriage and the political influence of the gay rights movement.

Olson teamed up with David Boies to argue the case, bringing together the two litigators best known for representing George W. Bush and Al Gore in the disputed 2000 election.

Defense lawyers called just two witnesses, claiming they did not need to present expert testimony because U.S. Supreme Court precedent was on their side. The attorneys also said gay marriage was an experiment with unknown social consequences that should be left to voters to accept or reject.

Former U.S. Justice Department lawyer Charles Cooper, who represented the religious and conservative groups that sponsored the ban, said cultures around the world, previous courts and Congress all accepted the "common sense belief that children do best when they are raised by their own mother and father." □



City Administrator Edwin Lee announces that City Hall will not yet be issuing marriage licenses following a stay on a federal judge's decision that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban in San Francisco, Wednesday, August 4, 2010.

Associated Press

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Senate jobs bill clears key hurdle

ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— U.S. Senate Democrats on Wednesday overcame Republican opposition and cleared the way for a \$26 billion measure to help states ease their severe budget problems and save the jobs of tens of thousands of teachers and other public employees. The bill advanced by a 61-38 tally that ensures the measure will pass the Senate on Wednesday or Thursday. The leader of the House of Representatives, Speaker

Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, said the House will return next week from a recess for a final vote that would deliver the bill to President Barack Obama, his larger jobs agenda curtailed by Republicans who argue against the spending it would entail.

Moderate Republican Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins cast the key votes to break the Republican delaying tactics.

The bill would extend programs enacted in last year's stimulus law to help preserve the jobs of teachers, police officers, firefighters and other public employees.

The legislation is scaled back from versions that stalled

earlier this summer as part of a larger tax-and-spend measure extending jobless benefits and a variety of expired tax breaks. The first piece is \$16 billion to help states with their health care for the poor budgets in the first six months of next year. It is less generous than the help provided under the stimulus law but is still desperately sought by governors, who have already made big budget cuts as tax revenues have plummeted in the recession and warn of even worse cuts if the federal help is not continued.

The measure also contains \$10 billion to help school boards hit with similar budget woes avoid teacher layoffs this fall. "This legislation makes a difference," said Sen. Patty Murray, a Democrat. "Real people in real jobs. Real paychecks."

But most Republicans opposed the measure, calling it a payoff to public employee unions and warning that it would make the states ever-dependent on federal funds.

The spending is accompanied by tax increases and spending cuts to avoid increasing the budget deficit. The bill eliminates in March 2014 an expanded food stamp benefit enacted last year and limits



Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., second from left, glances at Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., right, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, after a Senate vote that would clear the way for a \$26 billion measure to help states with their severe budget problems and save the jobs of tens of thousands of teachers and other public employees. From left are, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Murray, Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Reid.

Associated Press

the ability of some U.S.-based multinational companies to use foreign tax credits to reduce their U.S. taxes.

"That would have the effect of driving jobs overseas," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, a Republican.

Democrats, who control the chamber with 59 votes, needed to pick up at least one Republican to muster the 60 votes required in the 100-member chamber to defeat Republican stalling tactics. Wednesday's vote to defeat the Republicans came after Democratic leaders made final tweaks to the measure in hopes of winning over Snowe and

Collins. The duo also provided the key votes last month to pass a six-month extension of jobless assistance for the long-term unemployed.

A vote scheduled for Monday was postponed after an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office showed the measure would add to the budget deficit. Snowe and Collins also had been concerned about cuts to Navy shipbuilding accounts since the Bath Iron Works in their state of Maine is so essential to the state's economy. Majority Leader Harry Reid got rid of the proposed cuts Monday night. □

Senate to try again to fund border security

JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate will make another stab at increasing spending for U.S. border security before closing down for its monthlong summer recess at the end of this week.

Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat, is going to try to push through a bill that provides an additional \$600 million for the border. That includes \$176 million to hire 1,500 more officers to form a strike force to be deployed in critical areas along the border, his office said Wednesday.

The House of Representatives passed a measure with \$701 million for border security, before it left for its recess last week. The White House has sought the additional funding, and, with illegal immigration shaping up as a major issue in the November election, both parties have pressed for action to restore some semblance of order to the country's southern border.

It is unclear whether Schumer's proposal will gain the Republican support needed to act on it before the Senate recesses. Republicans have proposed similar legislation but would pay for it by taking unused money from the Obama administration's economic stimulus program, an idea unacceptable to Democrats.

Schumer would pay for his measure by raising fees on visas for temporary skilled workers sent to the United States by Indian companies.

The House is set to return for a special session next week to vote on a \$26 billion package the Senate passed Wednesday to help states with their budget crises and protect the jobs of tens of thousands of teachers. That would also give the House an opportunity to take up the border security issue if the Senate acts this week. □

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GULF WELL**Continued from Front Page**

The government stopped just short of pronouncing the well dead, cautioning that cement and mud must still be pumped in from the bottom to seal it off for good.

President Barack Obama declared that the battle to contain one of the world's worst oil spills is "finally close to coming to an end."

Yet after months of living with lost income, fouled shorelines and dying wildlife, some Gulf Coast residents weren't so sure.

"I don't think we've finished with this," said 59-year-old Harry "Cho-cho" Cheramie, who grew up in Grand Isle, Louisiana. "We haven't really started to deal with it yet. We don't know what effect it's going to have on our seafood in the long run."

Still, it appeared there might finally be an end in sight to the disaster that closed vast stretches of fishing areas, interrupted the usually lucrative tourist season, and cost BP's CEO his job and the company's shareholders billions of dollars.

BP PLC said 2,300 barrels of mud forced down the well overnight had pushed the crude back down to its source for the first time since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded off Louisiana on April 20, killing

11 workers and sending tar balls washing onto beaches and oil oozing into delicate coastal marshes.

And there was more seemingly good news: A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report released Wednesday claimed that only about 30 percent of the spilled oil remains in the Gulf and is degrading quickly. The rest has been contained or cleaned up or otherwise disappeared, and the report also said the oil no longer poses a threat to the Florida Keys or the East Coast.

However, some independent experts said they were concerned that the government's method of estimating the amount was too simple for such a complex spill, and even government scientists cautioned the rosy numbers do not mean the Gulf is out of harm's way.

The containment effort — and the cleanup — aren't finished either. Crews that forced in the mud for the "static kill" now must decide whether to follow up by pumping cement down the broken wellhead. Federal officials said they won't declare complete victory until they pump in mud and cement from the bottom to seal the well, a procedure that might not be done for weeks.

"We're in a good place today, but we want to get it



The Development Driller III, which is drilling the primary relief well, is seen from the Helix Q4000, the vessel being used to perform the static kill operation, at the site of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Louisiana, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010.

Associated Press

permanent over the near term, whether that's days or weeks," said Kent Wells, BP senior vice president, who repeatedly and pointedly avoided saying the static kill had finished the job. Asked when he will be able to say the well is dead, he replied: "I'm looking forward to that day."

An experimental cap had stopped the oil from flowing for the past three weeks, but it was not a permanent solution. Before it was lowered, the government estimates that 172 million gallons (650 million liters) of oil had flowed into the Gulf.

And before that, BP tried a series of often-absurd sounding contraptions, raising hopes only to dash them when those efforts failed. They included a giant 100-ton containment box that got clogged with ice-like crystals and the so-called junk shot, an attempt to clog up the well with golf balls and rubber scraps.

The apparent success of the static kill had some along the Gulf curious about why BP waited so long to try it.

"I'm wondering, as smart as the people in the U.S. government are, they couldn't have done this sooner?" asked 78-year-



Protesters, left, and counter protesters, right, shout at each other during a demonstration about a planned mosque and Islamic community center on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 in front of the Rutherford County Courthouse in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Those opposing the mosque circulated a petition asking the county commission to rescind approval of the facility.

Associated Press

JENNIFER PELTZ**Associated Press Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — The debate over a planned Islamic community center and mosque near ground zero became a court fight Wednesday, as a

conservative advocacy group sued to try to stop a project that has become a fulcrum for balancing religious freedom and the legacy of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The American Center for

Group sues to stop mosque near New York's ground zero

Law and Justice, founded by the Rev. Pat Robertson, filed suit Wednesday to challenge a city panel's decision to let developers tear down a building to make way for the mosque two blocks from ground zero.

The city Landmarks Preservation Commission moved too fast in making a decision, underappreciated the building's historic value and "allowed the intended use of the building and political considerations to taint the deliberative process," lawyer Brett Joshpe wrote in papers filed in a Manhattan state court. The Washington, D.C.-based group represents a

firefighter who responded to and survived the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center.

City attorneys are confident the landmarks group adhered to legal standards and procedures, Law Department spokeswoman Kate O'Brien

Ahlers said. A spokesman for the planned Islamic center, Oz Sultan, declined to comment on the lawsuit but said organizers were continuing to work toward choosing an architect.

The mosque has become a national political flashpoint, pitting several influential Republicans and the nation's most prominent Jewish civil

rights group against New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and others. In one of the latest signs of the issue's political reach beyond Manhattan, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick expressed support Wednesday for the proposed mosque.

The group behind the \$100 million project, the Cordoba Initiative, describes it as a Muslim-themed community center. Early plans call not only for prayer space but for a swimming pool, culinary school, art studios and other features. Developers envision it as a hub for interfaith interaction, as well as a place for Muslims to bridge some of their faith's own schisms. □

Historian doubts Demjanjuk's wartime account



Accused Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk arrives in a courtroom in Munich Tuesday Aug. 3, 2010. The former Ohio autoworker is being tried on nearly 28,000 counts of accessory to murder over allegations he was a guard at the Nazis' Sobibor death camp.

Associated Press

ANDREA M. JARACH

Associated Press Writer

MUNICH (AP) — A U.S. military historian on Wednesday testified in the trial of the retired Ohio autoworker accused of being a guard at the Nazis'

Sobibor death camp and expressed doubt about John Demjanjuk's account of his whereabouts in the last years of World War II. Bruce W. Menning told the Munich state court Wednesday that Demjanjuk's

claim he went to the Austrian city of Graz late in 1944 to join a Ukrainian force fighting the Soviets under German command was "implausible" as the group only came through the Austrian city in March 1945.

But defense attorney Ulrich Busch rejected Menning's testimony, saying his account of historical events was partly wrong.

Demjanjuk, who was deported from the U.S. to Germany in May 2009, is being tried on 28,060 counts of accessory to murder. He denies the charges and says he was never a camp guard. The defense maintains Demjanjuk was a Soviet soldier captured by the Germans and spent most of the war in prison camps himself. Menning, an expert on the

history of the Soviet Union who taught at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Kansas, also questioned other details of Demjanjuk's account.

He said that Demjanjuk's claim he spent some 18 months until October 1944 as a German prisoner of war at a camp in Chelm, Poland, was highly implausible.

Menning said on Tuesday the Germans moved the camp away from the front line by May 1944, from Chelm at the Ukrainian border to Skieriewice in the west of the country.

The historian previously testified as an expert in the denaturalization proceedings against the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk in 2001, when Demjanjuk had his U.S. citizenship revoked after

the Justice Department alleged he hid his past as the notorious Treblinka guard "Ivan the Terrible."

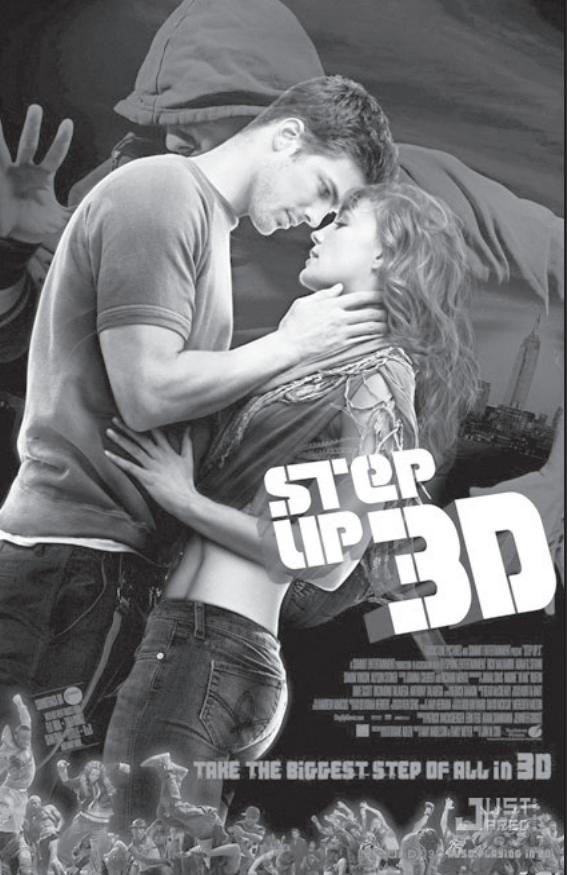
He was extradited to Israel, where he was found guilty and sentenced to death in 1988, only to have the conviction overturned five years later as a case of mistaken identity. Defense attorney Busch said on Tuesday that Menning was not an expert on the Russian or Ukrainian forces allied with Nazi Germany, such as the Shandruk or the Vlasov army. He asserted that Menning was wrong to claim those forces didn't exist until 1945.

He said they were gathering their men months before they officially started their duty — suggesting Demjanjuk could have joined those fighters in 1944 as he claims. □



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matinee: 11.30	PG
THE KARATE KID	
daily: 12.15 - 3.15	PG
matinee: 12.15 - 3.15	
late show: 11.45	
GROWN UPS	
daily: 4.45 - 7.00 - 9.15	
matinee: 12.00 - 2.30	
late show: 11.45	PG-13
TOY STORY 3 3D	
daily: 6.00	
matinee: 12.50 - 3.30	PG
late show: 11.45	
SALT	
daily: 8.30	
matinee: 11.00	PG-13
late show: 11.00	
DESPICABLE ME 3D	
daily: 4.30	
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late show: 11.00	
INCEPTION	
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AFTER.LIFE	
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AT PASEO HERENCIA

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late show: 11.00	
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matinee: 1.00 - 2.30	
late show: 11.00	PG-13
THE LAST AIRBENDER	
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Thick smog from raging wildfires engulfs Moscow

KHRISTINA NARIZHNAYA

Associated Press Writer

PEREDELSY, Russia (AP)

— Moscow was engulfed by the thickest blanket of smog yet this summer, an acrid, choking haze from wildfires that have wiped out Russian forests, villages and a military base.

Passengers on Moscow's subway said the eye-stinging haze hovered above the platforms on Wednesday, and City Hall warned of health risks from the smoke, which is carrying harmful gases, including carbon monoxide.

"I woke up before dawn and thought I was going to die of suffocation," said Yadviga Pashkova, a frail, 62-year-old former schoolteacher who lives in central Moscow. "It felt awful because there was no way out."

To the east, firefighters focused on beating flames back from a top-secret nuclear

research facility. In the capital, President Dmitry Medvedev fired several high-ranking military officials over what he called criminal negligence in fires that ravaged a military base.

Russia is suffering through its worst heat wave on record, a condition that has sparked forest and peat fires across its central and western regions that have killed at least 48 people in the past week. Temperatures for weeks have soared as high as 38 Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) in Moscow, where the average summer temperature usually is around 23 Celsius (75 Fahrenheit). Over the last 24 hours, firefighters have extinguished 293 fires, but 403 others have been spotted and more than 500 others have continued to rage over large swathes of countryside, some of them out of control, the Emergencies Ministry said.



Pleasure ships cruise the Moskva River despite a thick blanket of smog covering Moscow, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010. Relentless heat, thickening smoke, dubious officialdom — it's a lot to have on one's mind, and a prominent Russian physician warns that worrying about it all could be dangerous.

Associated Press

Dry winds have sent clouds of smog over Moscow before, but Wednesday's was the worst yet, with the haze obscuring the capital's landmarks and penetrating the subway system.

Moscow's 10 million residents were cautioned to protect themselves against the polluting smog, which came from wildfires in forests and peat bogs to the south and east. The bogs were drained

in Soviet times to harvest peat, leaving them prone to wildfires.

Pollution indicators in the capital reached a "critical barrier" overnight and "even healthy people must take preventative measures," Moscow weather officials said. Residents were urged to face masks outdoors.

Humans were not the only ones suffering. The smoke and smog in Moscow also have sickened and killed wild and pet birds who are especially sensitive to air pollution, said Vladimir Romanov, director of The Green Parrot Hospital. He did not have specific figures. Some 250 miles to the east, about 2,000 army troops and emergency personnel were fighting back flames that surrounded Russia's top nuclear research facility in Sarov.

The situation there was "tense but not critical," Deputy Defense Minister Dmitry Bulgakov said after new robotic firefighting equipment was sent to the scene overnight.

"There is no threat to the Federal Nuclear Center, and there is no reason for worry," Bulgakov was quoted by the ITAR-Tass news agency as saying. The country's nuclear chief, Sergei Kiriyenko, was quoted as saying that all explosive and radioactive material had been moved off site as a precaution.

The top-secret facility is Russia's main nuclear research

center and the birthplace of Soviet nuclear weapons. Lawyers for the late Russian security agent Alexander Litvinenko, who died in London in 2006 after drinking tea laced with polonium, claimed the radioactive isotope that killed him was produced at Sarov.

Another risk of radioactive contamination stems from the forest fires sweeping through areas polluted by the 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant, Russian environmentalists said. The fires have the potential to send radioactive dust into the air, Nikolai Shmatkov of the World Wildlife Fund's Russia office and Vladimir Chuprov of Russian Greenpeace told The Associated Press.

But nuclear energy scientists said the danger came not from radioactivity but from fine particles in the smoke.

"The concentration of radioactive elements will be so negligible that the smoke itself will be many more times more dangerous than the radioactivity in it," Ravil Bakin of the Institute for Safe Development of Nuclear Energy told the AP. "Fine dust that contains chemical pollutants is the real danger and is much more poisonous than radioactivity."

In the tiny village of Peredeltsy about 125 miles southeast of Moscow, locals worried about their future after wildfires left their homes in smoldering ruins. □

Caricom leader to resign after nearly two decades

BERT WILKINSON

Associated Press Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — The longtime leader of a Caribbean trade bloc announced his resignation Wednesday, surprising many who had praised the way he dealt with nearly two decades of challenges.

Edwin Carrington is the longest serving secretary general of the Guyana-based Caribbean Community, created in July 1973. He is credited with helping boost the region's sluggish economy and creating a regional appeals court.

"It has been a period of important achievements as well as significant disappointments," Carrington said in a statement. "I leave satisfied and confident however, that Caricom now has a solid platform."

Carrington did not specify the disappointments or say why he decided to give up the post at the end of December, but said he was looking forward to dealing with family issues.

Some Caricom officials said Carrington felt he was losing support among some of the 15 member nations. Critics have said he spent

too much time traveling and not enough time supervising staff to ensure projects were carried out properly.

Calls to several representatives of member nations were not returned.

A replacement has not been named.

Carrington, 72, is an economist from Trinidad and Tobago who was appointed Caricom leader in 1992 after serving as secretary-general of the Association of African, Caribbean and Pacific nations.

In 1994, he helped establish the 39-nation Association of Caribbean States and two years later helped find homes for thousands of people displaced by an erupting volcano in Montserrat. Carrington also reviewed membership requests from Haiti and Suriname while in office. In 2010, Caricom granted Haiti — the last country to join the organization — permission to sell goods duty free in the region for three years. Caricom trade director David Hales called Carrington an inspirational leader.

"I think his shoes will be hard to fill," Hales said. "He generated strong loyalty among staff and people who worked closely with him." □

Thursday, August 5, 2010

Kenya sees big turnout in vote on new constitution

KATHARINE HOURELD

TOM ODULA

Associated Press Writers

TIMBOROA, Kenya (AP)

— Enthusiastic voters, many wrapped in colorful traditional blankets, waited for hours Wednesday to cast ballots on a new constitution that could spell a new era for Kenya — curtailing the president's enormous powers and giving citizens a bill of rights.

With memories fresh of the ethnically charged violence that left more than 1,000 people dead following the disputed 2007 election, police were deployed en masse across the country.

Voters overwhelmed polling stations in some locations, and one Nairobi site saw dozens of Kenyans who had not yet voted force their way in after authorities tried to shut it down at the official 5 p.m. closing time.

Despite that after-hours push, officials reported few problems and no violence countrywide.

Enthusiasm for the new constitution appeared high. In the Nairobi slum of Kibera, lines formed as early as 3 a.m., while voters at some Rift Valley sites waited five hours or more.

"Since we got independence from Britain our country has not run smoothly. The current constitution has not been used well, but we didn't write that one, and we are writing this one," declared Paul Wahome, a 23-year-old student who waited six hours to vote in the Rift Valley town of Nakuru.

Returns from about 30 percent of the polling stations showed the "yes" camp taking an early lead: About 64 percent of the votes cast, compared to 36 percent for the "no" camp, according to Kenya's election commissioner Ahmed Issack Hassan.

Pre-vote polls had showed the referendum would likely pass, and Associated Press reporters had difficulty finding Kenyans who said they voted against it.

"It's a struggle between the



Kenyans queue in numbers at a polling station in the Rift Valley town of Nakuru, Kenya, Wednesday Aug. 4, 2010. Kenya is bracing for its first national vote since the 2007-08 political violence that left more than 1,000 people dead, dispatching 18,000 additional police officers to a potential hotspot ahead of the ballot on a new constitution. Politicians and analysts predict that Wednesday's referendum will be largely peaceful, but at least 200 people in the volatile Rift Valley already have fled their homes before the vote, fearing a new flare-up.

haves and the have-nots in this country, and the haves are trying to maintain the status quo," said James Otumba, a 43-year-old teacher who was shot in the chest during the 2007-08 violence.

"This is a revolution taking place in this country ... This constitution is one thing that can actually reconcile the nation," he said.

The international community, and particularly the U.S., has urged Kenyans to pass the constitution, even as the draft raised emotions over land rights, abortion and Muslim family courts. Kenya's current constitution, drawn up in the lead-up to Kenya's 1963 independence from Britain, grants the president sweeping powers.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters Wednesday the Obama administration was gratified that a large number of Kenyans voted and that the vote was generally peaceful. "This is an important step toward strengthening democratic institutions in Kenya," Crowley said.

If passed, the new constitution will dramatically cut back the president's powers by setting up an American-style system

of checks and balances and paving the way for much-needed land reform. Kenyan presidents have long favored their own ethnic tribes in the distribution of resources, a tremendous source of tension here.

This time around, the government changed voting procedures to avoid the charges of fraud that sullied the 2007 vote. Preliminary ballot results, for instance, were sent in to Nairobi by cell phones, and the tallying center was moved to a more isolated location to better control who has access to it. The referendum was one of the conditions of the power-sharing agreement between President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga that ended the 2007-08 violence. Both back the new constitution, and both appealed to Kenyans to vote peacefully.

"From the reports I have received, it is peaceful all over the country and we want this to remain that way so that Kenyans can peacefully decide their future," Odinga said after casting his ballot in Kibera, where excited crowds pushed to get close to him.

"I have no doubt in my

mind that the 'yes' will win resoundingly," he said.

The "no" camp is backed by most of Kenya's church community, which objects to a clause that says abortion is permitted if the life or health of the mother is in danger according to the opinion of a "trained health professional." The draft also has stirred emotions over publicly funded family courts for Muslims. "Some in the 'yes' camp are against our Christianity," said Susan Chevet, a beautician who voted "no" because of the abortion clause.

Still, a leader of the "no" camp, Higher Education Minister William Ruto, told the AP his side would respect the outcome. Stories about tension and violence are "the work of the prophets of doom," he said.

The head of Kenya's electoral commission said vote tallying will be more transparent than during the last election, when claims of vote-rigging led to violence. The count will be broadcast live on TV and radio. Results were expected as early as Thursday.

Despite the optimism, an ethnic dispute in the Rift Valley town of Timbora showed the two dominant

tribes there — the Kalenjin and the Kikuyu — still harbor strong emotions that could come to a boil.

The episode late last week involved a Kalenjin herdsman, who attacked two Kikuyu women while they were collecting firewood in the forest.

One of the victims, 67-year-old Lucy Muthoni quoted the herdsman as saying: "Why are you people still here, why are you still bothering us?"

The herdsman hit Muthoni's friend, Grace Muthoni Maititu, with a club and a machete, splitting open her head and knocking her unconscious.

After reporting the attack to police, authorities addressed the elders of the Kalenjin community, who summoned all the herdsman. The women picked out their attacker from a lineup, and police arrested him.

The incident prompted some Kikuyus in Timbora to lock up their forest homes and move into town for the election. One man, refusing to give his name to a reporter, said only: "I'm afraid, I'm afraid."

Jacob Ngehia, a local government official, said some of the animosity stems from the 2007-08 violence, because court cases are being carried out and witnesses are being threatened.

"It's not over, it is a ceasefire. The root causes have not yet been addressed," Ngehia said. "We must stop the cycle of revenge."

During the 2007-08 violence, tribesmen used bows and arrows to fight each other, gangs hacked opponents to death and police were accused of shooting sprees. With more than 63,000 police officers deployed to secure Wednesday's vote, many Kenyans expected the referendum to be peaceful. But many worry about clashes during the next presidential election in 2012 or a violent backlash if the International Criminal Court in the Hague charges leading politicians for the 2007-08 violence. □

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Iran says explosion near president just fireworks

ALI AKBAR DAREINI,
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's official news agency said Wednesday that an explosion near the president's convoy was just an excited fan setting off fireworks, denying earlier reports of an assassination attempt.

A fan set off a firecracker similar to those used during sports matches to express his excitement at Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit to the western Iranian town of Hamedan, reported the IRNA news agency. The explosion near the president's convoy had set off a flurry of media reports, including one that it was a handmade grenade.

The conservative Iranian website, khabaronline.ir, said a grenade exploded as the president's convoy headed from the airport to the venue for the speech, but did not harm him.

Eyewitnesses in Hamedan told The Associated Press by telephone that the explosion definitely came from a firecracker.

"It was a firecracker, which made a sound and produced

smoke near where I was standing," Amin Mehrabi said. "Many people filmed it with their cell phone cameras." Iran's deputy police chief, Gen. Ahmad Reza Radan told the state news agency the reports about the explosion were "sheer lies" circulated by foreign media.

Ahmadinejad went on to give his speech as planned, and it was broadcast live on state television. He made no mention of the attack in his remarks, focusing instead on the country's disputed nuclear program.

He struck a hard line against Western demands that Iran halt its nuclear activities. The U.S. and its allies accuse Iran of trying to develop atomic weapons, but Tehran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

"It will be one of your big mistakes if you think you, resorting to lies and hue and cry, are able to achieve something and we will give you any concessions," Ahmadinejad told the crowd at the Hamedan stadium.

One person was arrested in connection with the attack,

the website report said, adding that Ahmadinejad's car was about 100 yards (meters) from the blast. It also said there was no information whether anyone was injured.

"The explosion caused a lot of smoke," the report said.

Ahmadinejad, whose popularity at home is waning amid a faltering economy and tightened U.N. and Western sanctions over Tehran's nuclear program, regularly tours the countryside to deliver speeches to grass-roots supporters in cities and town across Iran.

A U.S.-Iran relations specialist, Jim Walsh with the MIT program on security studies, said that "Iran has a strong interest in trying to minimize this event, given the domestic problems following last year's unrest over the presidential election."

Walsh stressed that assassinations have been a staple of Iranian politics in the past and that while there have been attempts on other Iranian officials, there's been no known such attack on Ahmadinejad.

Several media outlets differed



Smoke rises next to a vehicle transporting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, as he arrives in the city of Hamedan, 204 miles (340 kilometers) southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010. A conservative website said a handmade grenade exploded near Ahmadinejad's convoy in an apparent assassination attempt, but Iran's official news agency said that the explosion was just an excited fan setting off fireworks.

Associated Press

in the details about what happened.

The semiofficial Fars news agency said a handmade grenade was thrown at the path where the president and his entourage had been but only after they had left the site.

The semiofficial Mehr news agency called it a handmade percussion grenade, adding that there were several arrests.

A photo by the semiofficial ISNA news agency showed smoke dozens of yards away from the convoy, which was surrounded by people. It did not elaborate on the source of the smoke.

Hamedan, 200 miles west

of Tehran, is not known as a restive area, but it is close to Kurdish area of Iran that has witnessed occasional clashes between Kurdish rebels and security forces over the past years.

Ahmadinejad also said Monday during a speech that Israel had sent agents to assassinate him, but he gave no details.

The accusation came a day after another conservative Iranian website, Mashreghnews.ir, reported that security forces had detained a terrorist group in Tehran that planned to assassinate officials. It linked the group to Kurdish separatists. □

Opening statements begin in Anna Nicole trial



FILE ** Anna Nicole Smith, leaves the U.S. Supreme Court, in this Feb. 28, 2006, file photo taken in Washington. Pre-trial motions are expected to be heard in a hearing Friday July 30, 2010 setting the stage for the trial of two doctors and the attorney boyfriend of the late Anna Nicole Smith, arguing about what evidence will be allowed in court. Jury questioning begins Monday.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

By LINDA DEUTSCH,
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Two doctors violated their responsibility to protect Anna Nicole Smith by prescribing massive amounts of drugs with the connivance of her lawyer-boyfriend, even though they knew she was addicted to painkillers, a prosecutor argued Wednesday.

But a defense attorney for Howard K. Stern said he loved Smith and depended on

doctors to prescribe the right medications for her chronic pain. He said she was not an addict.

Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, was in the courtroom with other relatives — a reminder of protracted court battles in the Bahamas and Florida after Smith died of a drug overdose in February 2007.

The contentions of Deputy District Attorney Renee Rose came during opening statements at the conspiracy trial of Stern, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor and Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, who are accused of providing vast amounts of powerful opiates and sedatives for the Playboy model under multiple names.

"None of it could have happened without Mr. Stern," Rose added during her two-hour presentation in Superior Court.

Stern's attorney, Steve Sadow, was the first to present the defense position. He said Stern was many things to Smith — lawyer, adviser, friend, manager and boyfriend.

"He cared for her and cherished her. He loved her," said Sadow.

"Witness after witness will tell you that."

"This is not a made-for-TV movie," he said. "This is his life."

He said jurors would not be able to find a bad motive

for Stern's actions. But he separated him from the other defendants.

"Howard K. Stern relied in good faith on the medical judgment of her doctors. He relied on their judgment on what was medically right and necessary for Anna Nicole Smith. Anna Nicole had pain, real pain, chronic pain."

Sadow stressed that Stern is not a doctor and suggested there was no conspiracy because, "If you don't know there's something wrong with what you're doing, there can't be an illegal agreement."

Stern and the doctors have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to illegally furnishing the drugs. Each could face more than five years in prison if convicted, and the doctors would lose their medical licenses.

They are not accused of causing Smith's 2007 overdose death at age 39 — a fact that Judge Robert Perry has stressed to jurors.

He previously told panelists they must not confuse the trial with the issues in the case of Michael Jackson's doctor, who is charged with involuntary manslaughter.

"What we are trying is a legality of prescribing medication case," Perry said.

Lawyers for the doctors and Stern have suggested they were desperately trying to save the doomed model during a period when she gave birth to a daughter and lost her grown son to a drug overdose.

During her opening statement, Rose displayed pictures on a courtroom screen of prescriptions for hundreds of pills, including Dilaudid, a drug known as "hospital heroin," and methadone in pill, liquid and injectable form.

"Anna Nicole Smith took a lot of methadone for pain and she took Dilaudid on top of that," Rose said.

Jurors also were shown pictures of Eroshevich with Smith following the 2006 birth of the model's daughter, Dannielynn. □



FILE - This Nov. 1, 2007 file photo shows actress Brittany Murphy, right, and her husband, writer Simon Monjack, left, at the BAFTA/LA Cunard Britannia Awards in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles coroner's office says Brittany Murphy's husband died from pneumonia, which also killed his actress wife months earlier. A news release issued Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010 also indicated that 40-year-old Simon Monjack had an enlarged heart.

(AP Photo/Dan Steinberg, File)

Coroner: Pneumonia killed Brittany Murphy husband

LOS ANGELES — Brittany Murphy's husband Simon Monjack died from pneumonia, the same illness that killed his actress wife months earlier, coroner's officials said Wednesday.

Monjack, 40, had a slightly enlarged heart and some prescription medications were found in his body, but not at levels that contributed to his death, Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said.

Monjack was found dead May 23 at the Hollywood Hills home he shared with his actress wife and her mother. Officials initially suspected a heart attack and confirmed Wednesday that Monjack died of natural causes.

Winter said the deaths of British-born screenwriter and Murphy had been referred to county health officials since they died of pneumonia, but did not know if an investigation was ongoing. The health department declined comment.

A list of medications was not immediately available but would be included in a full report issued in about two weeks, Winter said.

Murphy, star of films such as "Clueless" and "8 Mile," died in December and coroner's officials determined she died of a combination of pneumonia and that anemia and prescription medications played a role.

Winter says both their deaths were likely preventable.

"In simple English — they didn't take care of themselves," Winter said. "They didn't seek medical advice from a doctor. Brittany could have survived if she had gone to a hospital and Simon I think could have done the same." □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks rise on jobs, service sector growth



FILE - In this file photo made July 23, 2010, traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Reassuring signs on employment and growth in the service industry got the stock market back on an upward trajectory Wednesday. Major indexes rose after payroll company ADP said private employers increased hiring last month and a service sector index rose unexpectedly in July. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 44 points.

Investors were relieved that the two reports provided no signs that the economy might be headed back into recession, even though growth might be sluggish.

Traders have grappled with earnings and economic reports at odds with each other in recent weeks that provide a mixed picture about the pace of the recovery.

The latest batch of earnings were largely better than expected, continuing a trend that has been seen over the past four weeks. Broadcaster CBS Corp., video game maker Electronic Arts Inc., online travel site Priceline.com Inc. and Anadarko Petroleum Corp. all climbed. Whole

Foods Market Inc. was one of the few to report disappointing results.

The market has been mainly climbing over the past month on encouraging earnings and corporate profit forecasts. The Dow has gained 10.3 percent since closing at its lowest level of the year on July 2.

Despite the upbeat earnings and better-than-expected economic reports, many investors remain tentative ahead of the Labor Department's monthly employment report due on Friday. Quincy Crosby, Prudential Financial's market strategist, said the market needs much more than one positive report on private sector employment to gain confidence that the pace of recovery will speed up.

"ADP was positive, but when all is said and done, the market needs stronger confirmation to grind higher," Crosby said. Until then, stocks are likely to trade in a tight range, she said.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 44.05, or 0.4 percent, to 10,680.43. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.78, or 0.6 percent, to

1,127.24, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 20.05, or 0.9 percent, to 2,303.57. The Dow's rise Wednesday more than erased a 38-point loss from a day earlier when reports on personal income and spending and factory orders fell short of expectations.

Nearly three stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 975.5 million shares.

Trading volume has been unusually low in recent days, indicating that the few people actively participating in the market are mainly professional traders, said Bob Phillips, managing partner at Spectrum Management Group. Those types of investors typically trade quickly on the latest piece of news to be released, Phillips said. That adds to market volatility.

The confirmation investors are looking for in the jobs market could come in the next two days when the Labor Department releases its weekly report on initial claims for jobless benefits Thursday and its monthly employment report Friday.

Wednesday's ADP report is often seen as an early indicator of what the more important monthly jobs report from the Labor Department will look like. That report is broader and includes government as well as private sector employment. It's expected to show private employers added 90,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate rose to 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent in June.

ADP said private employers added 42,000 jobs last month, slightly better the forecasts of economists polled by Thomson Reuters. □



In this July 27, 2010 photo, fifty percent off signs are seen at an Aeropostale store, in Paramus, N.J. Worried about the stalling economic recovery, Americans remained reluctant to spend at stores in July, especially on pricier items like jewelry, though they let go of some money for travel, according to data released Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

Retail data: Americans remained cautious in July

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO,
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — Worried about the stalling economic recovery, Americans remained reluctant to spend at stores in July, especially on pricier items like jewelry, though they let go of some money for travel, according to data released Wednesday. Revenue from high-end jewelry, which had held steady in June, plummeted in July from a year earlier, when the figures already were dismal. Furniture also suffered as the boost from homebuyer tax credits wore off. Shoppers even pulled back on shoes and children's clothing, while luxury spending — excluding baubles — was virtually unchanged.

The figures from MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse, which include transactions in all forms including cash, signal that spending remains choppy as shoppers grapple with an almost 10 percent unemployment rate and tight credit.

Online revenue offered one bright spot, gaining for the 12th straight month. But travel spending — including airlines, trains, rental cars and hotels — also rose from July 2009, when it fell almost 2 percent.

The second-straight month with weak luxury sales contrasts with earlier in the year when the wealthy spent a bit more freely. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has tumbled 9.5 percent since its high-water mark in late April, and home values fell 3.2 percent in the first quarter, according to the Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller 20-city home-price index.

The latest data from SpendingPulse follows government reports, released Tuesday, that also show consumers being picky about how they spend their money. The Commerce Department said personal spending was unchanged in June, the third straight lackluster month. And the personal savings rate rose to 6.4 percent of after-tax incomes in June.

"The tide (in spending) doesn't seem to be rising overall," said Michael McNamara, vice president of research and analysis for SpendingPulse. "There hasn't been a consistent improvement that has been sustainable." □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Celtics sign 15-time All-Star Shaquille O'Neal

HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics signed Shaquille O'Neal on Wednesday, adding the 15-time All-Star center to a team needing his size with center Kendrick Perkins recovering from knee surgery that could sideline him until February.

The 7-foot-1, 325-pound center in the twilight of a brilliant career is coming to the Eastern Conference champions, hoping to add to his four NBA titles.

O'Neal signed a two-year contract worth about \$3 million, a person with knowledge of the negotiations said on condition of



In this Oct. 27, 2009, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers' Shaquille O'Neal (33) tries to pass around Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett during an NBA basketball game in Cleveland.

Associated Press



Minnesota Viking quarterback Brett Favre, right, laughs with his agent, Bus Cook during a break from his volunteer coaching with Oak Grove High School football players in Hattiesburg, Miss., Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

the ankle in May.

Bevell has been close friends with Favre since he was his quarterbacks coach with the Green Bay Packers.

"I know it's a decision that he wrestles with," Bevell said after Wednesday morning's practice as Favre was throwing the ball around with high school students in Mississippi.

"He's a great player. He's a great competitor. He mulls things over. He's an



anonymity because no details were released.

So this is where Shaq's colorful career will end after 20 seasons if he completes his contract with the Celtics.

One of the NBA's most charismatic players will finish with a legendary franchise on the parquet floor beneath 17 championship banners and the retired numbers of Bill Russell, Larry Bird, John Havlicek and other NBA greats.

After receiving little interest from other teams, O'Neal will play with Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen, Boston's "Big Three" since Garnett and Allen arrived before the 2007-08 season

From the first pick in the 1992 draft out of Louisiana State to dominant, rim-rattling inside force to complementary player, O'Neal's NBA travels have taken him to six teams and 15 All-Star games. He is the fifth leading scorer with 28,255 points and 14th in rebounds with 12,921 in league history. He's averaged 24.1 points, 11.0 rebounds and 2.3 blocks and was the NBA MVP in 2000.

His foul shooting might still be a problem and his lumbering style could slow down a running game, but the Celtics need the big center because Perkins is out, possibly until February.

Continued on Page 14

Agent, coach: Favre will play if ankle is healthy

emotional guy. So he thinks things through long and hard and takes his time with his decision. So I'm not surprised that things started to come out. We just have to wait and see." Bevell said he has spoken to the 40-year-old quarterback recently, but not in the last 24 hours. He said it's been his understanding that if Favre's ankle heals well enough, he will return to play for the Vikings this season.

"That's what I've been getting all along," Bevell said.

Cook said Favre will visit his surgeon, Dr. James Andrews, next week for an evaluation.

"He's working out really hard and everything seems to indicate that if he is healthy and can contribute and play at the level that he has become accustomed to, he will play," Cook said.

The two-year contract Favre signed last year calls for him to make \$13 million this season and Cook said he has

not begun negotiations on any adjustments to the contract.

Outside Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Favre told reporters his decision is "not about the money." He also said he has been in touch with the team and "they know what's going on with me."

On Tuesday, a person with

knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Favre had contacted teammates and team officials to tell them his ankle was not healing and that he wasn't going to return for a second season in Minnesota. Tight end Visanthe Shiancoe confirmed the report, saying Favre "told a couple guys on our team he's going to retire."

Shiancoe said Wednesday he still had not heard from Favre directly and declined further comment.

Like the rest of the league, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said he was taking a

"wait and hear" approach to the latest twist in the Favre saga.

"Brett Favre is great for our game. And I think the passion he has for the game is extraordinary," he said. "I think we all love to see him play, but we want him to do what's best for him at the end of the day."

Favre has considered retiring every summer since 2002. It led to an ugly parting with the Packers that got him traded from Green Bay to the Jets in 2008. After a so-so season in New York, he announced his retirement in early 2009 for the second time, then reconsidered and signed with the Vikings.

He had one of his best seasons last year, with career bests in completion percentage (68.4), quarterback rating (107.2) and fewest interceptions (7), while throwing for 33 TDs and 4,202 yards to lead the Vikings (12-4) to an NFC North title. □

JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

MANKATO, Minnesota (AP) — Brett Favre might play this season after all, with officials saying the quarterback plans to return for the Minnesota Vikings if his surgically repaired ankle allows it.

Vikings offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell and Favre's agent, Bus Cook, both said Wednesday that the veteran quarterback plans to play if he is healthy. He had surgery on

WNBA Roundup

Whalen, Lynx beat Sun in overtime, 111-103

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

— Lindsay Whalen scored 27 points as the Minnesota Lynx blew a 30-point lead before recovering to beat the Connecticut Sun 111-103 in overtime on Tuesday night. With the game level at 103-103 with 52 seconds left, Whalen made six free throws down the stretch to help Minnesota avoid a disappointing loss. Seimone Augustus had 21 points and Nicky Anosike had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Lynx.

Whalen played with a heavy heart after her brother-in-law was found dead in a Minnesota lake on Sunday. The team held a moment of silence before the game.

The Sun trailed by 30 midway through the second quarter but recovered and forced overtime when Renee Montgomery made a 3-pointer at the end of regulation. Montgomery had 33 points and Tina Charles added 19 points and 21 rebounds for Connecticut.

Shock 84, Storm 75

At Tulsa, Oklahoma, Scholanda Robinson scored 12 of her 21 points in the third quarter to lead the Shock to a surprising victory.

The league-worst Shock ended a seven-game losing streak and a nine-game skid at home. The Storm, with the WNBA's best record (22 wins, four losses), dropped their second straight. Ivory Latta added 15 points and Tiffany Jackson had 11 for the Shock, whose last win in their arena came two months ago against Minnesota.

Sue Bird scored 19 points for Seattle. Lauren Jackson had 18, Tanisha Wright 15 and Swin Cash added 13.

Mercury 103, Silver Stars 92

At San Antonio, Candice Dupree scored 24 points and Phoenix used a big second-half run to get the win.

Dupree had 10 points in a 21-2 surge that turned a one-point halftime deficit into a commanding lead, helping

the Mercury return to .500 for the first time since June 12. Temeka Johnson had five points and two assists in the key stretch, and finished with 13 and six.

The defending WNBA champions solidified their hold on second place in the West with their third straight victory and sixth in seven games.

Diana Taurasi had 21 points and 10 assists for Phoenix. Dupree also grabbed 12 rebounds.

Sophia Young scored 18 of her 24 points in the first half for San Antonio.

Liberty 82, Fever 72

At Indianapolis, Nicole Powell scored a season-high 20 points as the Liberty earned their fourth consecutive win.

Powell went 6-for-7 from 3-point range, including 4-for-5 in the second half. Cappie Pondexter scored 19 points and Janel McCarville had 11 points and 10 rebounds for New York.

Tamika Catchings scored 19 points and Briann January added 10 for the Fever, who have lost three straight. Catchings became the second player in league history to collect 700 career steals and the first to record 2,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists.

Mystics 86, Dream 78

At Atlanta, Katie Smith had 18 points as Washington rallied to get the win.

The Mystics used a 12-0 run in the fourth quarter to take the lead.

Lindsey Harding scored 16 points for Washington before leaving midway through the fourth with an ankle injury, and Crystal Langhorne had 15 points and 12 rebounds. Matee Ajavon finished with 14 points.

Angel McCoughtry scored 30 points for Atlanta, which had won four straight games.

In other WNBA games it was New York 82, Indiana 72; Washington 86, Atlanta 78;



Minnesota Lynx guard Lindsay Whalen shoots over Connecticut Sun guard Renee Montgomery during overtime of a basketball game Tuesday Aug. 3, 2010, in Minneapolis. Whalen had a team-high 27 points as the Lynx won 111-103.

Associated Press

Minnesota 111, Connecticut 103, OT; Tulsa 84, Seattle 75; and Phoenix 103, San Antonio 92. □

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Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria (3) congratulates Sean Rodriguez on his three-run home run in the first inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Sean Rodriguez and B.J. Upton hit three-run homers as the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Minnesota Twins 6-4 Tuesday. The Rays won for the 10th time in 11 games and victory allowed them to move into first place in the American League East.

Rodriguez homered in the first inning. Upton put the Rays ahead 6-3 with his tiebreaking drive in the seventh. Jeff Niemann (10-3) allowed three runs and eight hits over seven innings. Tampa Bay moved one game ahead of the New York Yankees, who lost to Toronto 8-2.

Rafael Soriano allowed an RBI single to Joe Mauer in the ninth before recording his 31st save.

Mauer was back in the starting lineup and went 3 for 4 with three RBIs as the designated hitter. The reigning American League MVP, dealing with tendinitis in his right shoulder, sat out two straight games after receiving a cortisone shot in the shoulder on Saturday. It has not been determined when Mauer will play behind the plate.

After pinch-hitters John Jaso and Matt Joyce drew one-out walks from Matt Guerrier (1-6) in the seventh, Upton hit his ninth homer of the season into the left-field seats.

At Baltimore, Buck

Associated Press

Showalter's difficult task of turning around the last-place Baltimore Orioles began with a victory over Los Angeles. Luke Scott hit a two-run homer and Josh Bell added a two-run double for his first major league RBIs in a big sixth inning.

It was Showalter's first game

SHAQUILLE ONEAL

Continued from Page 12

Perkins was hurt in Game 6 of the NBA finals against Los Angeles and missed the Lakers' 83-79 win in Game 7.

"If we get to another Game 7 down the line, I'm sure we will be glad we have Shaq on the team," Celtics co-owner Wyc Grousbeck said.

The team considered too old by some, despite nearly winning the title, has decided to rely for two more years on a group of 30-plus stars, all likely headed for the Hall of Fame.

O'Neal, 38, joins Pierce, 32, Garnett, 34, and Allen, 35. The Celtics also signed free agent center Jermaine O'Neal, 31 — a six-time All-Star — after the season.

All five are signed for two seasons, except Pierce, who has four years left on the deal he signed after the season. Point guard Rajon Rondo, 24, also is in the fold for four more years.

"I am honored to be joining the Celtics," Shaq said in a statement issued by the club. "I have played against Paul, Ray, Kevin, Rajon, and Jermaine for many years and it will be great to be able to call them my teammates. I cannot wait to get to Boston to get started in pursuit of another championship."

The Celtics won their NBA high 17th championship in 2008. "It is not every day that you can add a player of Shaquille's caliber to your team," Celtics president of basketball operations Danny Ainge said in the statement. "His past experience speaks for itself and we believe that he is a great fit for our roster."

Just which of the two O'Neals will start at center remains uncertain.

"I am very excited," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "Adding a player like Shaq is a major plus and it fills a void for our team. He's a real nice piece of the puzzle and he will complement us in where we want to go this coming season."

O'Neal has won three championships with Los Angeles along

AL Roundup

Tampa Bay powers its way past Minnesota 6-4

as a skipper since the end of the 2006 season, when he was with the Texas Rangers. He's the third manager of 2010 for Baltimore, which is a majors-worst 33-73, and drew a roar from the Camden Yards crowd of 16,723 simply by jogging out of the dugout to clarify a call with the plate umpire. Jeremy Guthrie (5-11) went seven innings, allowing three runs and five hits. The right-hander has now won two of his past three starts after going 0-6 in his previous nine.

With Los Angeles leading 2-1 in the sixth, Francisco Rodriguez (0-2) replaced Angels starter Trevor Bell after a leadoff walk and immediately gave up Scott's shot to right, his 19th homer. At Boston, Mike Lowell hit a two-run homer on the first pitch he saw after coming off the disabled list and Josh Beckett dominated for eight

innings as the Boston Red Sox beat Cleveland after a bench-clearing fracas.

The Red Sox won on the day they lost first baseman Kevin Youkilis. He went on the 15-day disabled list with a torn muscle in his right thumb and was going to see a hand specialist, unsure whether he would need season-ending surgery. Youkilis was on the field in the eighth inning when the benches emptied. A pitch by Indians reliever Jensen Lewis that sailed behind Adrian Beltre started things. Lewis, Indians third-base coach Steve Smith and Beckett were ejected.

No punches were thrown, though Smith and Red Sox manager Terry Francona got into a heated exchange.

Beckett (3-1), making his third start after spending just over two months on the DL with a strained lower back, gave up

a solo homer to Lou Marson and two singles. He struck out eight and walked none.

Jonathan Papelbon worked the ninth for his 25th save.

Huff (2-10), recalled from Triple-A Columbus on Tuesday, gave to three runs, seven hits, walked two and struck out two.

At New York, Ricky Romero baffled the suddenly slumping New York Yankees for the second time this season as the free-swinging Toronto Blue Jays belted four more home runs for the victory.

In other AL games it was Chicago White Sox 12, Detroit 2, 1st game; Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 1, 2nd game; Baltimore 6, L.A. Angels 3; Toronto 8, N.Y. Yankees 2; Boston 3, Cleveland 1; Tampa Bay 6, Minnesota 4; Kansas City 3, Oakland 2; and Seattle 3, Texas 2. □



In this Feb. 6, 2010, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers' Shaquille O'Neal (33) and LeBron James (23) wait for play to resume against the New York Knicks in an NBA basketball game in Cleveland. The Boston Celtics are making progress on a deal that would bring O'Neal to the defending Eastern Conference champions, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press.

Associated Press

with his latest, in 2006, with Miami when he was teammates with Dwyane Wade.

The Cleveland Cavaliers signed O'Neal before last season, hoping he could help LeBron James win his first title. O'Neal averaged a career-low 12.0 points, 6.7 rebounds and 1.2 blocks in 53 games, and the Cavaliers lost the Eastern Conference semifinals to the Celtics in six games.

In his last game, O'Neal had 11 points and 4 rebounds in a 94-85 loss in Boston.

That's where he's scheduled to begin his next season in a marquee matchup on Oct. 26 against the Miami Heat with James, Wade and Chris Bosh. □

Tipsarevic beats Sam Querrey in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Janko Tipsarevic took advantage of Sam Querrey's mistakes and found his serve late to beat the sixth-seeded American 7-6 (3), 6-3 on Wednesday in the second round of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic.

Querrey double-faulted on break point to give Tipsarevic a 5-3 lead in the second set. Querrey's third double-fault of the match proved costly, as Tipsarevic served three straight aces in the next game to seal the match.

Tipsarevic had a first-serve percentage of only 39 in the first set but found his rhythm in the second, raising his percentage to 82. Tipsarevic totaled with 16 aces.

"I was making a lot of errors all match," Querrey said. "He was forcing me to go for a lot

of shots. I was tired, so I was trying to end points a little sooner by going for some bigger shots."

Querrey was one of four seeded players to lose in Wednesday's first four matches. No. 9 Ernests Gulbis retired after falling behind Illya Marchenko 6-1, 1-0 due to heat and Marco Chiudinelli beat No. 10 Radek Stepanek 6-1, 6-3.

Alejandro Falla advanced to the third round when Lleyton Hewitt, seeded 11th, retired due to a right calf injury while trailing 7-5, 3-2.

No. 8 Marcos Baghdatis broke the pattern, advancing 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5) over Horacio Zeballos. Querrey was coming off a string of tough matches that culminated with a tournament win at Los Angeles on Sunday.

It was the second time the two had met in less than a week. Querrey beat Tipsarevic in a tight three-set match featuring two tiebreakers in the semifinals at Los Angeles. Tipsarevic knew Querrey was struggling in the rematch when the American struck some of his second serves with his full first-serve power even before the tiebreaker.

"I said, he's getting tired, just hang in there and it'll come," Tipsarevic said. "And it did come. Winning a first point in a tiebreak on a guy's double-fault when he's trying to make an ace on the second serve shows you he's getting tired, and if you stay disciplined you have a bigger chance to win." Tipsarevic had no problems with his service game. The Serbian player finished with 16



Janko Tipsarevic, of Serbia, makes a backhand return to Sam Querrey, of the United States, during their match at the Legg Mason Tennis Classic in Washington on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010. Tipsarevic won 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Associated Press

aces, and only lost six points all match when serving.

"I like to think of myself as one of the better servers out there for my height," Tipsarevic said. "But today was a little bit more than expected."

Querrey's big week also included a Tuesday morning tennis clinic on the White House lawn — and a surprise

appearance by President Barack Obama.

"No one saw him coming, he kind of snuck around," Querrey said. "It was pretty cool."

Top-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic is scheduled to face Dmitry Tursunov in Wednesday's final match. □

NL Roundup

Halladay pitches Phillies past Marlins 6-1



Philadelphia Phillies' Roy Halladay pitches against the Florida Marlins in the fourth inning of a baseball game in Miami, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010. The Phillies won 6-1.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Roy Halladay made a triumphant return to the scene of his perfect game, allowing one run in seven innings as Philadelphia beat Florida 6-1 on Tuesday. Halladay (13-8) threw the

Halladay hit a two-run single in the fourth. He improved to 3-1 in four starts against Florida this year with an ERA of 1.13. Ben Francisco and Carlos Ruiz homered on consecutive pitches in the second inning. Francisco finished with three of the Phils' 13 hits, and Ruiz had four.

Dan Uggla hit his 24th homer leading off the second for the Marlins.

Florida's Sean West (0-1), making his first start of the season, went five innings and allowed five runs, four earned. At Atlanta, Jeff Francoeur hit a go-ahead solo home run in the ninth inning off Atlanta closer Billy Wagner as New York snapped a two-game losing streak.

The Braves have lost three of four and now lead second-place Philadelphia by two games in the National League East. Atlanta's 35-14 record at home, where they had won 25 of 32, leads the majors.

Reliever Manny Acosta (2-1) earned the win for New York after allowing one hit and

three walks in 1 2-3 innings. Mets closer Francisco Rodriguez pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his 23rd save. Wagner (5-2) gave up one hit and one run with one strikeout.

At Denver, Jonathan Sanchez limited Colorado to three hits over six innings as surging San Francisco won its fourth straight game in a blowout.

After five straight no-decisions, Sanchez (8-6) won for the first time since July 5 and equaled his 2009 victory total. Sanchez struck out seven straight batters at one point and finished with nine strikeouts before leaving after a leadoff walk in the seventh. The Giants, who have won 21 of their past 26, had a four-

run first inning against Aaron Cook (4-8), who lasted three innings and allowed eight hits and five runs. In his past three starts, Cook is 0-3 with a 13.97 ERA.

The Giants matched their season-high with 19 hits, the most allowed by the Rockies this season.

Taylor Buchholz relieved Cook and gave up a run-scoring single to Buster Posey in the fifth and a solo homer to Freddy Sanchez in the sixth. Posey, who is hitting .356 since being recalled May 29, went 3 for 5. He and Pat Burrell each had two RBIs.

At St. Louis, Houston's Bud Norris won his fourth game this season in a route over St. Louis.

Houston had a five-run second against rookie Jaime Garcia (9-5) and scored four in the sixth, seventh and eighth against the St. Louis bullpen. The Astros were 13 for 19 with runners in scoring position. They missed the franchise record for runs by one and had a season-best 22 hits.

In other NL games it was Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 6; N.Y. Mets 3, Atlanta 2; Philadelphia 6, Florida 1; Milwaukee 4, Chicago Cubs 3; Houston 18, St. Louis 4; San Francisco 10, Colorado 0; Arizona 6, Washington 1; L.A. Dodgers 2, San Diego 1. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Alex Rodriguez hits home run No. 600

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player in American baseball to hit 600 home runs Wednesday, reaching the milestone in the first inning against Toronto at Yankee Stadium.

The 35-year-old slugger hit his 17th homer of the season, driving a pitch from Toronto's Shaun Marcum over the center-field wall and giving the Yanks a 2-0 lead. A stadium worker retrieved the ball for him.

He raised a hand slightly in triumph as he rounded first base, then completed his trot around the bases.

Rodriguez joined an elite 600-homer club that includes Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714), Willie Mays (660), Ken Griffey Jr. (630) and Sammy Sosa (609).

He finally got No. 600 after



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez connects for his 600th career home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010 in New York.

Associated Press

NFL: No discipline on Vick after shooting

ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

BETHLEHEM, Pennsylvania (AP) — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell told Michael Vick he will not face disciplinary action following a shooting at the quarterback's birthday party six weeks ago.

Goodell spoke with Vick on Tuesday while visiting the Philadelphia Eagles during his training camp tour. Shortly after, the NFL released a statement saying Goodell based his decision "on his current understanding of the facts." It said he, Vick, NFL mentor Tony Dungy, and Eagles coach Andy Reid spoke on the phone weeks ago "on the need for additional support measures to be added to Michael's plan to enhance his opportunity to succeed in life and football. These additional steps will remain confidential, but they will require Michael to meet even higher standards." The NFL and the Eagles had been looking into a shooting at a nightclub in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where Vick held his 30th birthday party on June 25. Police said no charges would be filed because of a lack of

cooperation by witnesses and the victim, who Vick's attorney Larry Woodward identified as Quanis Phillips — a co-defendant in Vick's federal dogfighting case.

Vick and Goodell spoke on the phone after the shooting, but this was their first face-to-face meeting. "I want him to understand that he's in a different position than others and because of that he has to protect himself differently, and he recognizes that, I think," Goodell said. When the Eagles signed Vick to a two-year contract last August after he finished an 18-month sentence in federal prison, he was told he has no margin for error. Vick was a model citizen off the field and in the locker room during his first season with the Eagles. Also, he was popular among his teammates.

A three-time Pro Bowl pick during six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons, Vick is Philadelphia's No. 2 quarterback behind Kevin Kolb. He wasn't much of a factor last year, completing 6 of 13 passes for 86 yards and one touchdown, and ran for 95 yards and two scores. He tossed a 76-yard touchdown pass in a 34-14 loss to Dallas in the playoffs.

going 12 games without a home run.

After coming out for a curtain call, Rodriguez received congratulations from teammates in the Yankees dugout. Many had raised their arms in joy when he finally connected.

Despite saying he's been more relaxed than he was when trying for his 500th homer, Rodriguez went just 9 for 46 after homering on July 22, the longest stretch between Nos. 599 and 600 for any of the seven to reach the mark. Mays was next at 21 at-bats, according to STATS LLC. A-Rod went 28 without a home run before 500.

Rodriguez turned 35 last Tuesday, putting his home run pace far ahead of the rest. Ruth had been the youngest to hit 600, reaching the mark in 1931 at 36 years, 196 days.

Ruth did it in fewer games, though — 2,044 to 2,227 for Rodriguez.

During a tumultuous spring training of 2009, Rodriguez admitted to using steroids while playing for the Texas Rangers from 2001-03. He also had major hip surgery that kept him out the first month last year.

He returned with a fresh outlook that put the team first, helping lead the Yankees to their first World Series championship since 2000.

The 13-time All-Star has been saying that No. 600 is merely a springboard to better things — mainly helping his team win, but also reaching Bonds' record of 762 home runs.

Being the home run king comes with a tarnished crown, though.

After Bonds eclipsed Aaron's record with his 756th in 2007 amid accusations of steroid use — something Bonds vehemently denies — talk immediately turned to Rodriguez, who days earlier had become the fastest to No. 500. He was supposed to be the player who would restore credibility to American sports' most cherished record, but that all changed two years later.

In response to a SportsIllustrated.com report and mounting speculation, Rodriguez admitted to using steroids as he hit 156 homers with Texas. He has 255 with the Yankees and 189 with the Seattle Mariners.

For one of the most scrutinized players in baseball, there was little fanfare in the run-up to No. 600 — perhaps it's Steroid Era fatigue or the fact that Rodriguez became the fourth player to reach the mark in the last 10 years after none in 31 years.

LOCAL

Aruba



On Top Of The News

Homeschoolers Denied Permission to Travel

WILLEMSTAD - On the Caribbean island of Curaçao, a part of the Netherlands Antilles, citizens must abide by stringent education laws.

For example, families are prohibited from traveling off of the island with their children during school days unless granted special permission from the school principal, as well as the Ministry of Education.

HSLDA recently learned of the island's interpretation of its compulsory education law when a homeschool family attempted to take their children to attend the wedding of a friend in the United States.

The family has successfully homeschooled for one year in Curaçao and for six years prior to that in the United States. The children hold dual Dutch-American citizenship. Yet the local government denied the family's application for an exemption from the compulsory attendance law. The family is now pursuing an administrative appeal to see if they can gain the necessary exemption to homeschool. The next step would be to take their case to court.

The Netherlands Antilles is closely linked with the Netherlands, and in fact, several of the Antilles islands will become part of their mother country later this year. In both countries, it is possible to homeschool on the basis of personal conviction. Whereas Dutch law requires homeschool parents to notify school authorities of their intent to homeschool, the current law in Curaçao requires parents to request and obtain an exemption from the school law to teach their children at home. Exemptions are rarely granted, as education officials state that there are "sufficient public schools" on the island.

HSLDA is supporting the family as they fight for their homeschooling freedom. □

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Thursday, August 5, 2010

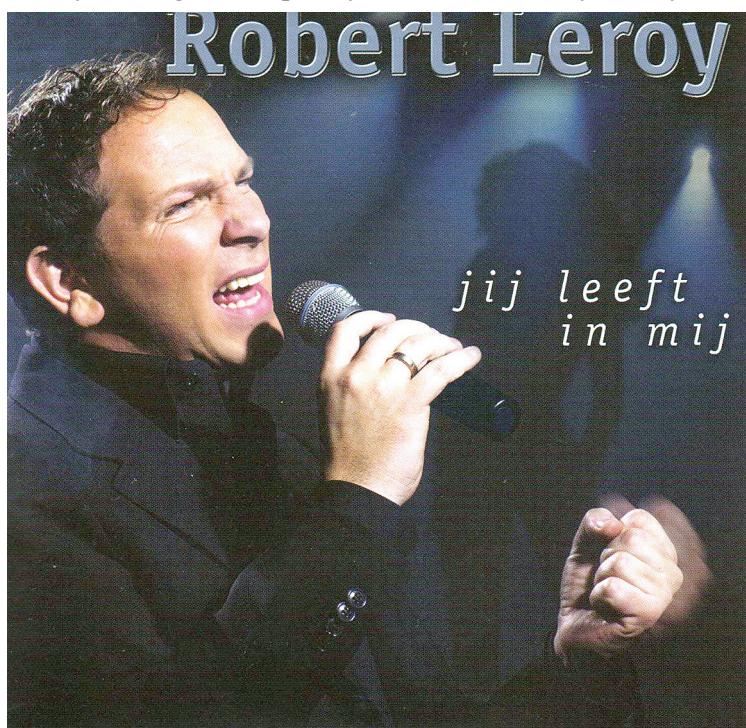
Famous Dutch singer falls in love with the island

Music Artists Robert Leroy & family visit Aruba



PALM BEACH - Famous Dutch Singer Robert Leroy is currently on Aruba with his family after coming to Aruba two years ago, completely

loosing his heart to our island. "I am so in love with this place, and so is my family." "I've found my home-away-from-home," says Leroy, who



a guest of the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club again together with his family.

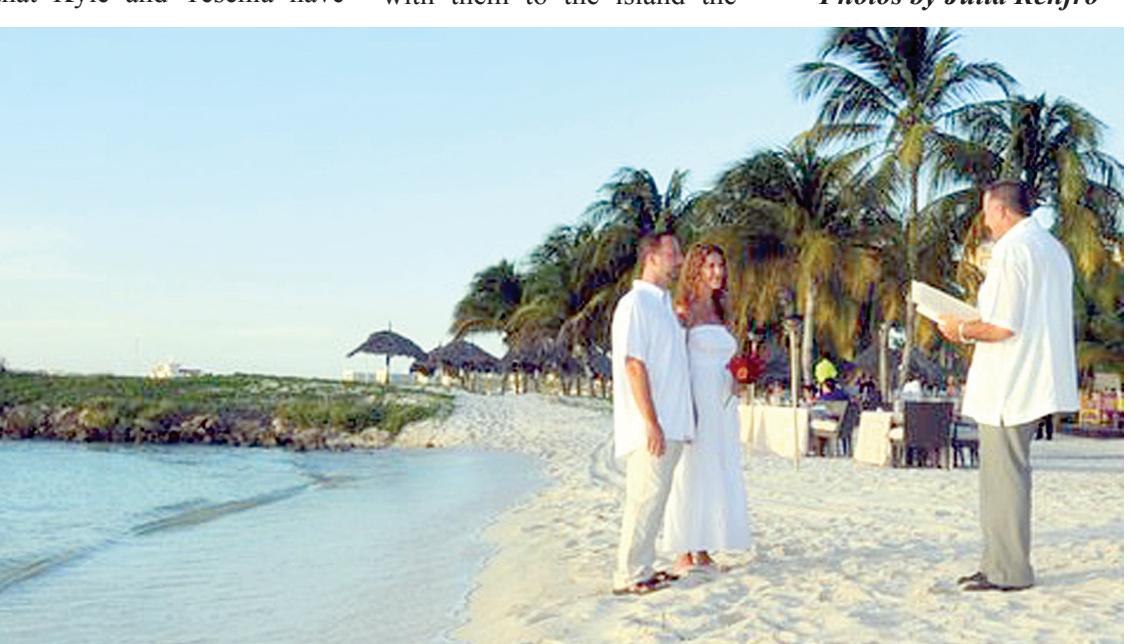
In an interview with Aruba Today, he said "I would like thank everybody on Aruba for our exquisite stay," during his stay on the island. He was immediately swept away by the wonderful hospitality extended to him, and decided that he wants to give back something to the community of Aruba to reciprocate the kindness. Leroy is currently taking a short break on Aruba with his family before going to Spain for several concerts. Next year he'll be back to Aruba and hopefully in the near future to perform and hosts some benefit concerts and events.

In the meantime Robert Leroy is booking success with the launching of his own magazine called RL which he says is dedicated to his fans and friends, the magazine talks about how he started out, where he stands now a days and the future of his career. He also opened his new club in Amsterdam which holds a "4 timed a year only" Robert Leroy Exclusive Gala Concert. Recently Robert Leroy released his latest CD/DVD "Laat Mij Maar Gaan Concert" recorded at the Heineken Music Hall which is available on his webpage www.robertleroy.nl or in any record store. □

Photos by Julia Renfro

An Aruban Fairy Tale renewed

Kyle & Yesenia Fox renew decade of marriage



PALM BEACH - Kyle & Yesenia Fox celebrated their love for one another with the exchange of vows of forever love for one another with a romantic blessing on the beach. The newlyweds of 10 years exchanged vows and celebrated a circle-with-no-end ring blessing officiated by Rev.

Robert Gibson and coordinated by Indira Maduro of Aruba Fairy Tales at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Resort.

After the exchange vows and kisses, Kyle and Yesenia continued with a romantic photo shoot with our professional photographer, a champagne toast and private dinner on the

beach catered by the Divi Aruba Phoenix Resorts' signature restaurant Sunset Bistro.

Although this is the first time since the birth of their children Alexander and Joshua, that Kyle and Yesenia have

had the opportunity to re-honeymoon on Aruba, they plan to bring their children back with them to the island the

next time they come back to their home-away-from-home Aruba.

~ *Photos by Julia Renfro ~*

Carlos Bislip Drum & Percussion Camp recital



ORANJESTAD - On August 8th, 2010, Professor Carlos Bislip will present his "End of Camp Recital" in the Expo Zaal at the Cas Di Cultura. Time of the event is at 4:00 p.m. and entrance is only 10.00 Afl. Performers at this event in the first group will be

Zachery Croes, Gilton Kelly, Cezar Kock, Elton Lampe, Jamal Martinus, Juni Rafael, Giovanni Thiel and Rayderick Wever.

The second part of the group will be performed by Meldrick Boekhoudt, Omar Jaramillo, Yussef Kassar, Keanu

v.d. Linden, Shawn Marchena, Jordan Morales, Christle Nieuw, John Perez, Leonardo Phillips and Jaymir Statia. The third part of the group will be performed by Victor Gomez, Siegfried Hart, Gyasi Muller. Special Guest for this event will be Jamaal Baptiste, Mi-



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~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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INDOOR & OPEN AIR

Tiara Air expands its Aruba-Bonaire-Aruba flight schedule



ORANJESTAD Effective immediately, Tiara Air is operating an expanded flight schedule with non-stop service between Aruba and Bonaire. The flight schedule is as follows:

Aruba to Bonaire:

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, flight #303 departs Aruba at 9:10 AM arriving in Bonaire at 10:00 AM. Additionally, on these same days, flight #305 departs Aruba at 6:20 PM, arriving in Bonaire at 7:10 PM. (Please note that beginning

August 2, Tiara Air flight #305 will depart Aruba at 7:00 PM, arriving in Bonaire at 7:55 PM.)

On Sundays, Tiara Air will operate flight #307 which departs Aruba at 7:10 PM and arrives in Bonaire at 8:05 PM.

Bonaire to Aruba:

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, flight #304 departs Bonaire at 10:20 AM arriving in Aruba at 11:10 AM arrival. Additionally, on these same days, flight #306 departs Bonaire at 7:30 PM arriving

in Aruba at 8:20 PM. (Please note that beginning August 2, Tiara Air flight #306 will depart Bonaire at 8:15 PM, arriving in Aruba at 9:10 PM.)

On Sundays, Tiara Air will operate flight #308 which departs Bonaire at 8:25 PM arriving in Aruba at 9:20 PM.

In addition to this expanded flight schedule, Tiara Air has also announced that effective September 12, 2010, they will add an additional two weekly rotations Aruba-Bonaire-Aruba. These new flights will

take place on Saturdays, and will follow the same schedule as flights 303/304 and 305/306 currently utilize.

This new schedule will provide additional flights, while providing earlier morning flights which make connections in Aruba to the USA much easier. These flights, coupled with the new evening flights, will also allow day trips to Bonaire for those visiting Aruba.

"We're delighted that Tiara Air has recognized the need for additional seat availability on their non-stop flight service between Aruba and Bonaire," stated Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, Director of Tourism. "Tiara's newly expanded schedule will allow for more convenient connections to Bonaire for our visitors from the United States and Canada. Also visitors to Aruba may now make a day trip to Bonaire and experience another dimension of the Dutch Caribbean," she continued.

Tiara Air is utilizing Shorts 360 aircraft with a maximum passenger capacity of 36 persons. The aircraft is operated by a crew of two pilots and one flight attendant. For additional information, to check availability or to make a reservation, visit the Tiara web site at <http://www.tiara-air.com> or contact your favorite travel planner.



[tiara-air.com](http://www.tiara-air.com) or contact your favorite travel planner.

Located eighty-six miles east of Aruba, the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire offers year-round sunshine, low annual rainfall, pristine coral formations and the most thriving fish population in the Caribbean. Ideal for adventurers, explorers and sun-worshippers alike, Bonaire offers myriad eco-adventure activities including world renowned scuba diving and snorkeling, windsurfing, kiteboarding, mountain biking, sea and mangrove kayaking, horseback riding, landsailing, nature tours, hiking, bird watching, sailing and deep sea and bone fishing. And with a selection of accommodations ranging from full-service oceanfront resorts and condominiums to guesthouses and small inns, Bonaire has something for every lifestyle and budget. □



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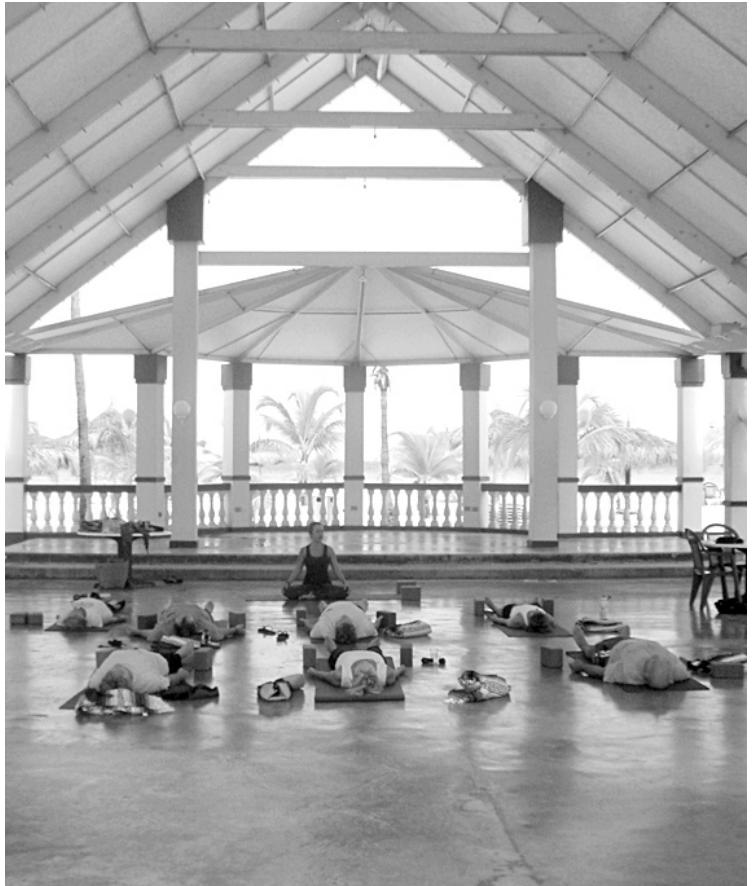
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October 16-23, 2010

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa Organizes a Yoga Vacation



ORANJESTAD - The intimate Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa located on Aruba's widest beach at Eagle Beach is organizing a yoga vacation from October 16-23, 2010.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is well known for the peace and quietness guests often long for during their holiday. Guests can relax, rejuvenate and liberate themselves from their daily life routine.

Manchebo is home of the exotic outdoor Caribbean-Balinese Spa del Sol where they offer their guests a unique opportunity to reconnect with a variety of spa treatments. Their first Yoga Vacations in June and August 2010 were a big success!

Experience and enjoy a Caribbean Yoga Vacation on Aruba's widest beach from October 16-23, 2010.

Professional Yoga instructor from Costa Rica, Monika Ramos Tapia will again be hosting this Yoga Vacation Week.

She has taught Yoga in various locations such as the Nosara Yoga Institute in Nosara, Costa Rica and as a Faculty member at the highly recognized Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York and in beautiful Bellagio, Lake Como in Italy.

The Aruba Yoga Vacation

Package includes an ocean view room with private balcony or patio, welcome wine & cheese party, two yoga & health classes per day, guided tour at Aruba's famous Arikok National Park, island jeep tour, daily healthy breakfast including a fresh fruit smoothie, two a-la-carte lunches per stay, two a-la-carte dinners per stay and airport – hotel transfer.

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HUMAN HINTS

How to Transform Your Moods

Humans are moody creatures, and our emotional swings are usually beyond our conscious control. With practice, we can learn to recognize our bad moods and in an effortless moment, to purposefully transform them in real-time. External stimuli from the physical world cause the body to release hormones that generate our emotions. We have been emotional slaves to our hormones until now.

It is time we learn how to dictate to the body how we feel, regardless of the physical stimulus we are subject to. Our conscious mind can make the body secrete empowering hormones just when we need them most.

First of all, be grateful for your emotions. All of them, good and bad. Human Emotion is one of the most powerful, desired Forces

of Creation throughout all Realms of Energetic Expression. Don't take it for granted, and don't curse your gift of feeling. Embrace your emotions and release them. That is growth.

It takes but an effortless instant to shift our emotions, but we usually make it as hard as possible for ourselves. When it's hard, we feel like we earned something valuable. If life were easy, there would be no growth. People need challenge. If we don't have enough adversity, we often create it even if it's not necessary.

How do we reverse our mood swings out in the world, when Life is having a field day with our emotions, tossing us around with every fickle whim? It is important to be able to release what you are feeling. When you release your emotional energy, you make room for new emotions. Most of us have a hard time letting go of our emotions. Too often, our emotions are the only stimulation we get from life. We get used to being a certain way, and we don't want to let go of our bad emotional habits. It takes courage to let go of your self, even a part of yourself

that you don't like.

exercise.

The first step is to recognize your mood swings. When we suddenly fall into a bad mood, it feels both good and bad. As bad as it feels on one level, it is also invigorating. When we're in a bad mood, we feel alive. More importantly, we feel. Any feeling, even a bad mood, can be a welcome respite from the monotonous daily life that forbids us from feeling anything.

Once you realize and admit to yourself that you're in a bad mood or depressed, embrace it for a moment. Feel your bad mood as fully as possible. Think of all the unfair things in your life. Think about the things that infuriate and depress you. Tighten every muscle in your body for as long as you possibly can, then completely relax your entire body. You will feel the bad energy release its grasp on the cells of your body. You will probably feel exhausted. At this moment, when your body's (ego's) defenses are down, think of something that makes you laugh. A line in a sitcom, something funny that someone did, whatever. If you can, have this thing already in your mind. Think of it before you begin this

Realize your moods, embrace them, release them, replace them. Repeat as necessary.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.



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Who wants to adopt me

Hi, I am Simba

I would like to introduce myself. I am one of the donkeys that find a home at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary organization. For a long time I roamed the island, but it became more and more difficult to find food. With increasing traffic, things got hazardous for donkeys.

I used to have a girlfriend: a beautiful black donkey. But she got hit by a car in Noord and she did not make it. Friendly people fed me in their garden and called the Sanctuary organization and so I was taken to the sanctuary.

Actually I am glad they took me in, as otherwise I would have still been roaming the island, looking for food. Not only traffic is a hazard for donkeys, but also wild dogs.

At the shelter life is pretty good. I get fed and watered on time and when I get sick the vet comes in to look at me. So I am quite an expensive donkey, all in all. That is why I am trying to find people who want to adopt me. I will still stay at the Donkey Sanctuary, but you just need to pay thirty florins per month for my upkeep.

You help the sanctuary this way and me as well. You will receive a nice document and a fantastic tee-shirt. Can you call the Shelter please?

The number is 593-2933. You can also become a sponsor via our website www.arubandonkey.org. Please help. □

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a series of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

"Dinner is almost ready..."

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

Driftwood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Oranjestad

Reservations: **583 2515**

Email: info@driftwoodaruba.com

Website: www.driftwoodaruba.com

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3-course dinner → \$24
Appetizer - Entree - Dessert**

\$24
per person



Thursday, August 5, 2010

Know the past - to know where our future is



ORANJESTAD - Hurricane Ivan (2004) inflicted a lot of damage to much of the coastal areas in Aruba. One area in particular that got hit real hard was the reef near Baby Beach going towards the refinery. These acts of nature are not something that we can manipulate or control and when these occur we hope for the best and hopefully the damage is survivable and we can bounce back quickly. Hurricanes and other weather phenomena destroy but nature somehow balances itself again in some way shape or form. Damage to the underwater environment and in particular to corals is not as much from natural impact but from impacts caused by humans. Activities such as anchoring on the reefs, draining of sewage or industrial waste water in the ocean, spear fishing, pollution and overuse of reef areas will kill the coral and destroy large areas of marine habitat. However there is another activity, which also contributes to this destruction. Illegal salvaging is one of the activities that have been going on in Aruba for a long time and despite the fact that there are laws against this, still people are taking artifacts out of the water. Many people confuse or to their advantage pretend that

traditions, customary tolerance and negligence are all justified as legal activities and lack of enforcement doesn't help the situation either. But let us take a look into the past and see where this all came from. Back in the 1950's there was something called the "Lago Spearfishing Society". Since the invention of the modern scuba equipment in the mid 1940's the use of scuba, (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus), and spear fishing started to go hand in hand. With the establishment of the Lago refinery on Aruba and the "modern era tourism", scuba diving was introduced on the island and the "Lago Spearfishing Society" was born. During that same time several artifacts belonging to wrecks around Aruba became open game to any person who could put a scuba tank on their back and sometimes a tank wasn't even needed. Canons, cannon balls, anchors and other artifacts were collected because there was no law and there weren't any rules or regulations to prevent this. Of course the local people also started to engage into scuba diving activities and this is also how they got involved into spear fishing and salvaging. Many of the artifacts that were salvaged in the past have

not been used other than for personal gain or decorations. Aruba doesn't have a museum of natural history or a maritime museum and today even with only an archeological museum these artifacts and others that were taken more recently were never placed in a museum or put into conservation in order to be displayed to the general public. But the question is this; in the 1950's there was no law, but how about the last ten or twenty years? Bonaire started with marine environmental protection with turtles in 1961 but in 1963 they hosted the biggest international spear fishing competition in the entire Caribbean.

The pioneer of marine protection in Bonaire and back then a spear fisherman himself was the same person who organized this competition. Captain Don Steward an American adventurer and sailor brought scuba diving to Bonaire with his arrival in 1962. In his first year there he just collected tropical fish for export and speared fish until that international spear fishing competition, which he organized in 1963. After seeing the massacre that this competition caused he immediately change his ways. He realized that both he and the island will be better off if he can bring in tourist from abroad and make money showing them the fish instead of shooting it. He became the driving force behind the protection of corals, marine environment and laid the foundation for the Bonaire marine protection movement. Because of this vision and protection, Bonaire today ranks in the top ten world destinations for scuba diving and this vision on tourism

to engage into any type of recovery projects. In this case the archeological museum is the only government agency, which might be allowed to undertake such a project. Recovery of artifacts in or under water must have a well defined scientific backing and a very extensive outlined plan of action is needed and supported by a scientific proposal. This is particularly important if these artifacts have been under water for over fifty years, because their classification can change to that of a monument if they have been under water for more than 50 years.

Specific laws for marine protection are not yet in place, but under several current laws there is protection against for instance spear fishing and also salvaging including penalties for violation of these laws. Aruba is currently working on specific laws regarding marine protection, which should be implemented soon, but common sense is the key and any person can find out information about these current laws and can access them freely. There are several ordinances like; the monument ordinance (1991), the ordinance prohibiting under water hunting devices, (2001), the nature protection ordinance, (1995), the environmental ordinance, (1987), and the book of criminal law of Aruba, (1991), just to mention a few. Back in the day of the "Lago Spearfishing Society" it was a different Aruba. Fish appeared to be plentiful and collecting under water artifacts such as cannons or old anchors was viewed as part of the charm that went along with that era. Today it's 2010 and Aruba



still has to join the ranks of the countries that protect their national treasures and particularly their underwater monuments and or archeological treasures. Taking these artifacts out of the water not only endangers their preservation but the past has also showed that many of these objects have ended up discarded or got "lost" after recovery. The sad part is that many of these objects never made it to their intended destination no matter what the noble intentions may have been. The bottom line is this; salvaging is against the current laws and until the government says otherwise, everybody needs to understand that we made mistakes in the past and if we want to protect the marine environment including our underwater artifacts we need to protect what we still have properly. This can only be done by following the law and have it done properly and correctly. Changing times require a change in attitude and the maturity to accept changes. Only then we can safely protect these resources for the future and work towards whatever the common goal is for our underwater treasures. Whether it's protection, preservation, conversation or by honoring our past and the memory of those who went before us. □



has been seeing it's fruits for the past decades. In Aruba on the other hand, there was no Captain Don and marine protection is not where it's supposed to be. Still, there are some laws now that prohibits removal of artifacts under water and it is very simple. Any artifact in the territorial waters of Aruba belongs to the island and only the government can issue permits or appoint a person or organization



SCRAPED CLEAN of barnacles, moss and rust, the 100-year old artifacts brought up last month from the reef, look almost as good as new after several coats of varnish. The cannon and the anchor will be presented to the projected museum in Oranjestad.

We need you! HELP save our donkeys

ORANJESTAD - Indeed, this is an appeal of the Donkey Sanctuary, which is in urgent need of volunteers. Due to our extended opening hours (daily from 9am to 4pm, during the weekends from 10 am until 3 pm) and the increase in the number of donkeys at our shelter, we are sorely in need of more volunteers. We take care of more than 100 donkeys, which are divided into three locations. And all of them need their feed, the grounds need to be cleaned and there are lots of other chores as well.

Our volunteers can often be found in booths and behind stands during different festivities and they receive visitors to the shelter. The number of visitors increases every year as well.

Every year we need to say goodbye to volunteers because they are leaving the island, because of work pressure or when they follow their husbands to Holland, (like the wives of the Dutch marines).

Interested volunteers can let us know for which activities they wish to be scheduled and on which days, or part of the day, they can come and help us out. We have volunteers who come in on a daily basis, on a weekly basis or even those who come on a monthly basis. For us, everyone is more than welcome! We need them!

Are you interested in being actively involved in the guarding this part of Aruba's heritage, do you like working together with other volunteers, then please contact Desiree Eldering at 593-2933. The other volunteers as well as our lovely donkeys will be forever grateful! □



Take a culinary trip around the Mediterranean Sea without leaving our terrace



Palm Beach -- When we say Mediterranean cuisine, we mean the food from the adjacent nation-states sharing the shores of the Mediterranean, embracing many cultures and influenced by varied customs.

At Casa Tua Mediterranee our menu offers a trip around that sunshiny, lively part of the world, without ever having to buy an airline ticket, starting at the Atlantic and traveling traverse Europe to Turkey, on to the Middle East and North Africa.

Our chefs picked the best, most delicious dishes from France, Italy, Greece, and Tunisia, and paired them with most famous Middle-Eastern appetizers and salads to present a formidable culinary trip around the Mediterranean Sea, enjoyed in

our contemporary indoor dining room which includes a cozy lounge area or on the dining terrace overlooking the action at the new bustling Palm Beach Plaza.

Spanokopita, brick oven baked filo pastries filled with Greek cheese and spinach, famous Tzaziki, a yogurt and cucumber dip, and popular Babaganoush and Hummus, with authentic pita bread, are some of our appetizers.

For main courses our traditional

Moussaka is justly called, the best you will ever have, and our genuine Tunisian Couscous, loaded with merguez, chicken and lamb, is rivaled only by our Tenderloin, Lamb and Chicken kebabs. We pay homage to provincial cooking with our Grilled Whole Red Snapper, flavored with herbs de Provence, and our Mussels, taste the way they're served in the port of Marseille. Our thin crust Italian Pizza, needs no introduction, as it has earned a huge following in both our other restaurants, Casa Tua Pizzeria and Casa Tua Barcelona.

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One Island – One Voice

Island gets enthusiastic for Cas di Glas



ORANJESTAD - A giant wave of enthusiasm went through CILO City Lounge last Thursday when the exciting Cas di Glas event was introduced to the local press. Almost all the media were present when Peter Ballière explained what the Cas di Glas (House of Glass) is all about: a fun, fundraising happening with a serious undertone. "Four days of fun, music, dance and more will underscore the need for a mobile unit for breast cancer screening," he said and he proceeded to explain that a united island can work miracles when everyone joins forces, especially when it is joining hands in the fight against cancer.

The idea is that three deejays will be sequestered in a house of glass, providing entertainment and raising funds for a mobile unit that visits the barrios on the island. On Aruba two women a week are diagnosed with breast cancer; a higher number than average, so Ballière

hopes that more women will get themselves tested, but also that the suffering that is synonymous with this terrible disease will lessen considerably when women are diagnosed at an earlier stage. Information booths, interviews and general information about health, sports and nutrition will put emphasis on a healthier lifestyle during the event.

An emotional moment came from deejay Jean Carlo Espinal of Cool FM: he spoke with a quiet voice about the death of his mother from cancer last year. "I entered another world when I entered a world with cancer," he said with immense sorrow sounding in his voice. Jean Carlo is very motivated to prevent others going through what he has gone through and his recent personal loss plays a big factor in his decision to be one of the 'hero deejays' of the Cas di Glas.

Well-known television host Siomara Everon of TeleAruba was next: she said that her motivation came from the fact that everyone knows



somebody who is battling or who has survived cancer. "It has not hit me yet, but it might hit me any moment. Everybody should know about cancer; there should not be a threshold or shame anymore." Siomara will be the only woman in the house of glass; as she is a tough cookie she is expected to do extremely well.

Last, but certainly not least, was DJ101 (Albert Vrolijk), who is taking the opportunity to drink only fruit and vegetable juices during his four-day stay in the house to lose a considerable amount of weight. As Albert is a role model for Aruba's youth, his effort will hopefully snowball. His personal trainer is Rudy Carti, whose track record is already fantastic. Albert is

committed to make the Cas di Glas event into a super hype: he is starting to promote it already as we speak. Getting a mobile unit on the island is a greater goal for him than losing weight.

Several big and small sponsors have already lined up in an effort to help and more are coming. The Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (Mrs. Lilian Prince) and radiologist Vanessa Williams of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital are standing right behind the Cas di Glas project as well, with great enthusiasm as well.

The press conference at CILO was the kick-off of a roller coaster towards a unique success in which One Island

shows that it can speak out with One Voice. □



HEALTH Aruba TODAY

Number of Obese Adults Keeps Rising, CDC Says

By Steven Reinberg

America's waistline continues to widen.

As of 2009, almost 3 in every 10 adults (26.7 percent) is now statistically obese, up from 25.6 percent in 2007, according to a new government report released Tuesday.

The report, from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), also found that between 2007-2009, the number of U.S. states where at least 30 percent of the adult population is obese had tripled to nine from three. Ten years ago, no state had an obesity prevalence of 30 percent or more, according to the new report.

"Over the past several decades, obesity has increased faster than anyone could have imagined it would," CDC director Dr. Thomas R. Frieden said during a noon press conference Tuesday. "Obesity has doubled in adults and tripled in children. We need intensive and ongoing efforts to address obesity, or more people will get sick and die from the complications of obesity, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer."

Although the federal goal of Healthy People 2000 was to have an obesity rate of 15 percent or less, not one of the 50 states managed to achieve that goal, Frieden noted.

According to the report, 2.4 million more American adults have reported becoming obese since the last such survey in 2007.

In addition, annual medical costs linked to obesity have soared to \$147 billion in 2008, the researchers say. The care of an obese American now costs \$1,429 more per year than that of

a normal-weight person, the CDC team estimated.

The data in the report is culled from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, which contains state-level public health data. In a phone survey, some 400,000 adults were queried on their height and weight, which researchers then used to calculate body mass index (BMI).

Obesity is defined as a BMI of 30 or more. For example, a 5-foot-4 woman weighing 174 pounds or more, or a 5-foot-10 man weighing 209 pounds or more would have a BMI of 30.

The new data could still underestimate the true level of obesity in the country, the researchers said. That's because many men and women often say they are taller than they are or say they weigh less than they do,

especially in self-reporting surveys, the team said.

As a result, the estimate of 26.7 percent of adults being obese is lower than the national 2007-2008 estimate pegged at 33.9 percent, or almost 73 million people. According to Dr. William Dietz, director of CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, the latter (higher) estimate came from the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, in which participants' height and weight were actually measured by researchers.

According to this new report, obesity is hitting some segments of the population harder than others. Blacks have the highest rate of adult obesity at 36.8 percent overall, and 41.9 percent of black women are now obese, the survey found.

Among Hispanics, the obesity rate is 30.7 percent, and among whites 25.2 percent, according to the report.

Education may also play a role: Almost a third (32.9 percent) of people without a high school diploma are now obese, the report found.

And location seems to be a factor, too. In the South, 28.4 percent of adults are obese, while in the Midwest the rate is 28.2 percent. In the Northeast the rate is 24.3 percent, and for the West it's 24.4 percent.

Some states seem to be faring worse than others. While just under 19 percent of adults in Colorado are obese, that number jumps to 34.4 percent for adults from Mississippi. Only Colorado and the District of Columbia had obesity rates of less than 20 percent.

Initiatives needed to fight the

obesity epidemic, according to Frieden, include:

Increase in physical activity. Increased breast-feeding of infants.

Eating more fruits and vegetables.

Cutting TV and computer time.

Reducing intake of high-calorie foods, particularly sugary drinks.

"Obesity is a societal problem, and it will take a societal response," Frieden said.

Samantha Heller, a dietitian, nutritionist and exercise physiologist, said the nature of that response isn't clear.

"We know we have an obesity problem in the U.S. The question that frustrates health professionals is what to do about it," she said.

Health education remains a critical element of behavioral change. Making healthy foods available and affordable, creating green spaces for outdoor recreation and community programs to support people in need of health and nutrition counseling are also key pieces of the puzzle, Heller said.

"But it is a challenge to find the funding for programs like these. In this economy, people are tightening their money belts and cannot afford to shell out cash for what they perceive to be expensive nutrition or health counseling. Unfortunately as we tighten the money belt, we are adding notches to the belts around our waists," Heller said.

It's not that people are contented with being overweight, she added.

"In my experience people want to feel good and get healthy but do not know where to go to get help," Heller said. □

HIV-Positive Women Who Want to Conceive Feel Stigma: Survey

Some HIV-positive women who want to have children feel stigmatized by their doctors, new research has found.

In the study, Canadian researchers surveyed 159 HIV-positive women in the province of Ontario. Forty-five percent of the women were born in Canada, while 55 percent were born elsewhere, mainly in HIV-endemic areas such as sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean.

The study participants were asked about their personal background, HIV treatments, mental health and whether they felt they were being negatively judged by health-care providers, family and friends for their desire to have children.

"We do have strong evidence that women are feeling they are being judged negatively by health-care providers for wanting to have babies," study co-author Trevor Hart, director of the HIV Prevention Lab in the psychology department at Ryerson University in Toronto, said in a university news release.

Family and friends didn't play a major role

in perceived stigmatization, the study authors found.

The study findings, scheduled for presentation this week at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria, were also published in the June issue of the journal Archives of Women's Mental Health.

New antiretroviral drugs mean that HIV-positive women can conceive without transmitting HIV to their newborns, and health-care providers should know this and be informing patients, Hart explained in the news release.

"There needs to be more efforts to make physicians aware of the practically nil chance of HIV-positive women transmitting HIV to their newborns as long as the women are continuing to receive appropriate medical treatment," he stated.

"There also needs to be continuing medical education to reduce the stigma perceived by HIV-positive women, which will improve their mental health and well-being," Hart added. □



Bureau of Competition Director Richard Feinstein, left, and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chairman Jon Leibowitz, take part in a news conference at the FTC in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, to discuss the Intel antitrust case.

(AP Photo/Drew Angerer)

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FTC says computer buyers benefit from Intel deal

By JORDAN ROBERTSON,

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Federal Trade Commission is trumpeting its settlement with Intel Corp. as a victory for consumers who have overpaid for computer chips for a decade, though computer buyers shouldn't expect a sudden drop in prices.

The deal announced Wednesday represents the end to the harshest antitrust lawsuit Intel has faced yet from government regulators, and it imposes the strictest set of changes onto the way Intel does business.

But any changes as a result of the FTC's actions would likely be gradual, and possibly imperceptible, to most people.

One reason is that the prices for computer chips have steadily fallen anyway as technological advancements make it cheaper for companies such as Intel to make more powerful chips. Consumers have gotten used to getting more computer for less money every time they go shopping.

The FTC's case is built on the argument that those prices haven't fallen as fast as they could have. It has accused Intel of contributing to that by abusing its position as the No. 1 supplier of both central processing units (CPUs) and graphics processing units (GPUs) to box rivals out of the market and stifle competition.

CPUs are the "brains" of computers and are among their most expensive parts, often making up about 15 percent to 20 percent of a computer's price.

GPUs are chips that make graphics look good on computer screens.

FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz said Intel's behavior stepped well over the line — moving beyond "the type of aggressive competition on the merits that we all encourage and into the realm of unfair, deceptive and anticompetitive conduct."

Intel has long denied the charges and has pointed to the industry's falling prices as evidence that the market is functioning normally.

Its argument has supporters.

Last week, the "special master" appointed by a federal court in Delaware to oversee class-action lawsuits against Intel argued in Intel's favor that consumers have benefited from the controversial discounts that Intel gives computer makers. The reason? Those savings are often passed along.

Intel's general counsel, Doug Melamed, said the settlement "provides a framework that will allow us to continue to compete and to provide our customers the best possible products at the best prices." Melamed added that the settlement puts an end to the "expense and distraction" of the litigation.

Investors appeared unmoved by the FTC settlement, which was expected. Shares fell just 2 cents to close Wednesday at \$20.73.

"I think it's more of a formality than anything else and don't think it materially changes

the game for anybody," said Patrick Wang, a semiconductor analyst with Wedbush Securities. A settlement that didn't have any major surprises "was never going to impact the stocks. If anything, it's a relief."

The settlement is a reminder that Wall Street cares less about Intel's antitrust tussles than it does the company's vulnerability to swings in the economy and changes in demand for computers.

Over the past five years, shares of Intel, a component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, have mostly traded in the \$20 to \$25 range, except for the clobbering they took during the worst of the recession, when demand for the most expensive types of personal computers — and Intel's most expensive chips — nosedived.

As part of the deal, Intel has agreed not to pay computer makers for avoiding rivals' chips or retaliate against them when they do pick competing products — things Intel has long maintained it wasn't doing anyway.

Those were essentially the terms of a \$1.25 billion settlement Intel struck last year with Advanced Micro Devices Inc., a key rival whose complaints piqued regulators' interest. The aftershocks of AMD's campaign still reverberate: Intel is still contesting a \$1.45 billion antitrust fine in Europe and separate cases in South Korea and New York state.

The FTC deal goes further than previous cases in mandating that Intel needs to be friendly to its rivals in other significant ways.

Those include modifying its intellectual-property agreements with AMD, Nvidia Corp. and Via Technologies Inc. so that those chipmakers can more easily do mergers and joint ventures with other companies without the immediate threat of a lawsuit from Intel.

That is important because AMD's recent decision to spin off its factories into a separate company — which AMD needed to avert financial ruin — triggered a showdown with Intel over the legality of that move. Intel's leverage over AMD in that matter was key to wringing a settlement out of AMD for far less money than AMD could have won at trial.

Jim McGregor, a semiconductor analyst with market researcher In-Stat, said technology companies have long used such agreements as weapons.

"We've seen that over and over again where they've used that as a hammer," he said. The FTC's case is a "huge statement to the industry that, 'You're reaching too far.'"

McGregor added that chip prices typically fall about 20 percent per year, and chip-makers try to counteract that by rolling out newer products that command higher prices. He said the FTC is "reaching a bit" with its argument that consumers would see better prices as a result of the settlement, adding that "we've seen dramatic decreases in prices over the past decade." □

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Is Obama Fair to African-Americans?

Mona Charen

I'm starting to wonder: Is President Obama fair to African-Americans?

Asked about Rep. Charlie Rangel's ethics problems on CBS's "Evening News," the president could hardly have been more direct if he'd seized Rangel by the back of the collar and belt and pitched him out the door. "I think Charlie Rangel served a very long time and served his constituents very well, but these allegations are very troubling. And he'll — he's somebody who's at the end of his career. Eighty years old.

I'm sure that what he wants is to be able to end his career with dignity. And my hope is that it happens."

Now Rangel, who is fighting the ethics charges, had no plans to "end his career" and may wonder why the president is so eager to usher him off stage.

The Rangel toss comes in the aftermath of the Shirley Sherrod affair. Though the White House and Democratic operatives have been beavering away, attempting to rewrite the history of this episode as an example of right-wing — specifically Fox News — villainy, the truth is otherwise.

Sherrod was fired, as she told it, due to White House worries that her story would be appearing on the Glenn Beck show. It was fear of the Beck show, not the actuality, that prompted the White House's panicked response. Her dismissal came before any mention of her name on Fox air.

Sherrod, who has since received apologies from the secretary of Agriculture and President Obama, had ignited one of those racial flashpoints that Obama seems particularly keen to avoid.

The White House may still be smarting from Glenn Beck's successful "outing" of Obama's "green jobs czar" Van Jones. But if so, it suggests that they misread that episode. Last summer, Beck discovered and trumpeted that Jones had a seriously left-wing extremist background. A former member of the Marxist STORM (Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement), Jones was an advocate for police killer Mumia Abu-Jamal and a signatory to a 9/11 "truther" petition. The petition called upon then-New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer to investigate whether "people within the current (Bush) administration may indeed have deliberately allowed 9/11 to happen, perhaps as a pretext for war." Jones is also an African-American, and in the wake of the Sherrod affair, it's fair to ask whether that fact loomed particularly large

for the president.

Jones resigned in September 2009, presumably involuntarily. It had not been an easy summer for the White House. In addition to the tea parties and raucous town hall meetings on health care, the president had mishandled the summer's racial fireworks over Prof. Henry Louis Gates Jr. and officer James Crowley. Inserting himself gratuitously into the controversy, the president popped off that the Boston police had acted "stupidly" in arresting Gates. Most Americans disagreed, and for the first time since his election, the president's approval ratings among whites and blacks diverged dramatically. The Pew Center found that among people who had heard "a lot" about the president's intervention in the issue, 41 percent disapproved while only 29 percent approved.

Among African-Americans, 85 percent registered support for the president following the incident while only 48 percent of whites approved.

Last fall, Obama leaned heavily on New York Gov. David Paterson to pull out of the race for re-election. Paterson was facing ethics charges involving an aide accused of domestic violence as well as some penny ante corruption — seeking free Yankees tickets. Obama intervened to shove Paterson toward the door.

Both Jones and Paterson arguably deserved to be kicked to the curb, as did the Rev. Jeremiah Wright during the campaign. But Sherrod, as the world now knows, did not. And it may be that Rangel does not. But in any case, it's beginning to seem that Obama has a hair trigger where African-Americans are concerned.

If so, he's overreacting. The gabosphere may hyperventilate over every fresh racial story, but there's zero evidence that race plays any role in the country's reaction to Obama. He was wildly popular at his inauguration and has lost standing as he has a) disregarded the electorate's wishes, and b) failed to improve the economy. □

AGING: THE ISSUE OF THE CENTURY

By Richard Reeves

LOS ANGELES -- If you think the Mel Gibson tapes are the biggest story out here, you would be wrong.

This is the big one: The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health last week released a study reporting that the average life expectancy in the county increased by five years between 1991 and 2006. The "average" Angeleno in the study lived to at least 80.3 years in 2006, probably even more now, compared with 75.8 years 15 years before.

Those numbers, including the fact that residents' years of good health are increasing as well, are a game-changer. Beginning with health care, Social Security, pensions, tax revenues and productivity per capita, nothing is going to be the same in the 21st century.

Public health, it could be argued, was also the biggest story of the 20th century. American life expectancy increased by more than 30 years between 1900 and 2000. At the beginning of that century, American life spans ranged from 45 for white women to 30 for black men. The reason, according to innumerable studies, was better public health, particularly clean water and improved sanitation, both important in reducing infant and childhood mortality.

(Note to Tea Partiers: If it weren't for government intervention in public health, you would probably not be around to protest that government can't do anything right.)

To take the most obvious example of game change: Social Security. In the good old days, most people did not live long enough to collect it. Another example: 10 states, including California, and numerous foreign countries are in the process of raising their retirement ages. Now there's a tricky one. Old folks staying on the job can save Social Security, but obviously that means fewer jobs for young people entering the workforce.

There will be more of that because there will be more old people and, in developed countries, many fewer children. The World Health Organization has chosen 2050 as the year old people will outnumber children around the

world. In the developed countries, including the United States, where people are having fewer children, the projection is that by mid-century there will be two old people for every child. The WHO estimates that the number of people over 60 -- they have already been born -- will increase from 10 percent of world population to 22 percent. The fastest growing group -- again, already born -- will be over 80.

In Great Britain, a Royal Commission concluded in 1999, that health care costs will have quadrupled by that magic year of 2050. In the United States, the Census Bureau projects that there will be 1 million people -- already born -- over the age of 100 by that year. The number of centenarians today is 71,000.

"Suppose longevity keeps going up and we're all living to 115," Ron Gebhardtsbauer told USA Today five years ago. "We can't expect to retire at 65 and take our final 50 years off. On the other hand, do we want to work until 100 and have a traditional 15-year retirement?"

Such arguments will probably dominate American political debate for decades. But it is obviously another global problem. The birthrate is declining not only in developed countries. The number of children being born in the poorest countries has dropped from six per family in 1950 to 2.5 today. It is fewer than two per family in these "developing" countries: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Iran, Thailand and Turkey. The Population Reference Bureau reports that by 2050 new births will come predominantly from Africa (2.1 billion) and Asia (1.3 billion), particularly from Muslim countries.

What's a rich country to do to maintain its lifestyle and standard of living? There are three obvious answers: more taxation, rationing of medical care, immigration. □



Uribe podría ser crítico y opositor de nuevo presidente de Colombia

BOGOTA (Reuters) - El presidente Alvaro Uribe entregará el poder el sábado con la mayor popularidad de un mandatario colombiano por su lucha contra la guerrilla, pero podría convertirse en el mayor crítico y opositor de su sucesor Juan Manuel Santos, a quien respaldó en la campaña. Despues de ocho años de gestión y de enfrentar agudas controversias a nivel interno e internacional con su estilo temperamental, los analistas prevén que le será difícil y casi imposible guardar silencio sobre las actuaciones de Santos, quien ganó como candidato oficialista.

“Yo personalmente creo que él va hacerle oposición a Santos, que la luna de miel entre ellos va a durar muy poco, tienen el mismo proyecto político pero son dos estilos diferentes, dos equipos de Gobierno distintos y van a terminar confrontados”, opinó el analista Jaime Castro.

Además de obligar a las izquierdistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) y al Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) a replegarse a apartadas zonas montañosas y selváticas, Uribe ha sido elogiado por alentar una mayor inversión extranjera en un país que era considerado como un Estado fallido y conocido por el secuestro y el narcotráfico.

El mandatario, quien se retira con una popularidad de un 75

por ciento y fue reelecto para su segundo mandato a través de una reforma constitucional, debilitó militarmente a las FARC con la muerte de importantes líderes.

Su estrategia de seguridad, apoyada por Estados Unidos, permitió reducir los asesinatos, las masacres, los secuestros y los ataques a la infraestructura económica.

Aunque Santos, un tecnócrata que goza del respaldo de los inversionistas y empresarios, ganó la presidencia como heredero político de Uribe, comenzó a marcar distancias de su antiguo jefe, con quien colaboró en el Gobierno como ministro de Defensa.

Algunos analistas prevén que el saliente presidente mantendrá un papel activo en la discusión política a nivel nacional, salvo que encuentre un cargo que ocupe su tiempo y su energía como la alcaldía de Bogotá, el segundo cargo más importante del país.

“El principal legado que deja Alvaro Uribe tiene que ver con el tema de la seguridad, ese es el disco duro de la gestión que cumplió y que se refleja principalmente en voluntad, en interés, en dedicación frente al combate que libró contra los llamados actores ilegales del conflicto”, dijo Castro.

Castro sostuvo que Uribe, un abogado de 58 años, aplicó un modelo económico neoliberal en el que atacó los grupos armados ilegales pero no las



El presidente de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, durante una ceremonia en su honor en las oficinas de policía, en Bogotá. REUTERS/John Vizcaino

causas de la violencia como la pobreza, el desempleo, la crisis de la salud y del sector agrario que continúan siendo la justificación de la lucha de la guerrilla. El desempleo urbano en Colombia alcanzó en junio un 12,8 por ciento, mientras que casi la mitad de los 44 millones de habitantes del país vive en la pobreza y

sin acceso a salud, educación y vivienda. Uribe reclama logros sociales en sus ocho años de Gobierno, incluso en su segundo período en el que fue sacudido por escándalos de corrupción y violaciones a los derechos humanos, aunque analistas aseguran que ese fue su punto débil. “Afianzó políticas neoliberales a través

de la confianza inversionista”, dijo la analista Consuelo Ahumada de la Universidad Javeriana. La experta afirmó que la política de seguridad obligó a las FARC a replegarse hacia las fronteras con Ecuador y Venezuela, lo que desató crisis diplomáticas con los gobiernos de Rafael Correa y Hugo Chávez. □

Preocupa a Palmer influencia de Cuba en FFAA de Venezuela

WASHINGTON (AP) - Un posible aumento de la influencia cubana en las fuerzas armadas venezolanas preocupa a Larry Palmer, nominado a embajador estadounidense en Venezuela, quien aseveró que las FARC mantienen campamentos en ese país.

Al responder a un cuestionario durante su proceso de confirmación en el Senado, el diplomático también indicó que ha disminuido la moral entre los soldados venezolanos.

“Mientras Cuba y Venezuela incrementan sus vínculos militares, me preocupa que aumente la influencia cubana en las fuerzas armadas venezolanas”, respondió Palmer a una de 12 preguntas que le formuló el senador Richard Lugar, el republicano de mayor rango en la comisión de Relaciones Exteriores del Senado.

“Si bien el gobierno venezolano sostiene que la presencia cubana en Venezuela se limita a los ámbitos médico, educativo y técnico, hay reportes confiables de una creciente cooperación cubana-venezolana en las áreas de espionaje y en las fuerzas armadas”, agregó Palmer en su respuesta.

El diplomático dijo estar al tanto “de los claros vínculos entre miembros del gobierno venezolano y las guerrillas colombianas” y sostuvo categóricamente que las “FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) mantienen campamentos en Venezuela”. “Los discos duros de las FARC obtenidos por el gobierno colombiano durante una incursión en marzo del 2008 en Ecuador brindaron información perjudicial sobre la naturaleza y la extensión de la vieja relación entre las FARC y miembros del gobierno venezolano”, respondió Palmer a otra de las preguntas de Lugar. □

Pobladores toman dos instalaciones de gas en Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - Cientos de pobladores que rechazan la exportación de gas tomaron dos instalaciones de una empresa gasífera de capital extranjero en Perú, en medio de protestas sociales en el país andino que amenazan con ensombrecer el último año del Gobierno del presidente Alan García.

A la protesta contra los envíos de gas en la región cusqueña de La Convención, a unos 460 kilómetros al sureste de Lima, se suma otra de cocaleros que reclaman un cese de la erradicación de sus cultivos en el este del país y que ya dejó un muerto en la víspera. Los manifestantes de Cusco temen que el incipiente negocio de exportación de gas produzca un desabastecimiento del combustible en el mercado local. Pero el Gobierno afirma que las protestas tienen un trasfondo político de cara a las elecciones regionales de octubre, la antesala del comicio presidencial del 2011. □

Las preguntas y respuestas fueron publicadas en el sitio de Lugar en internet.



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